



Beautiful Bonneville

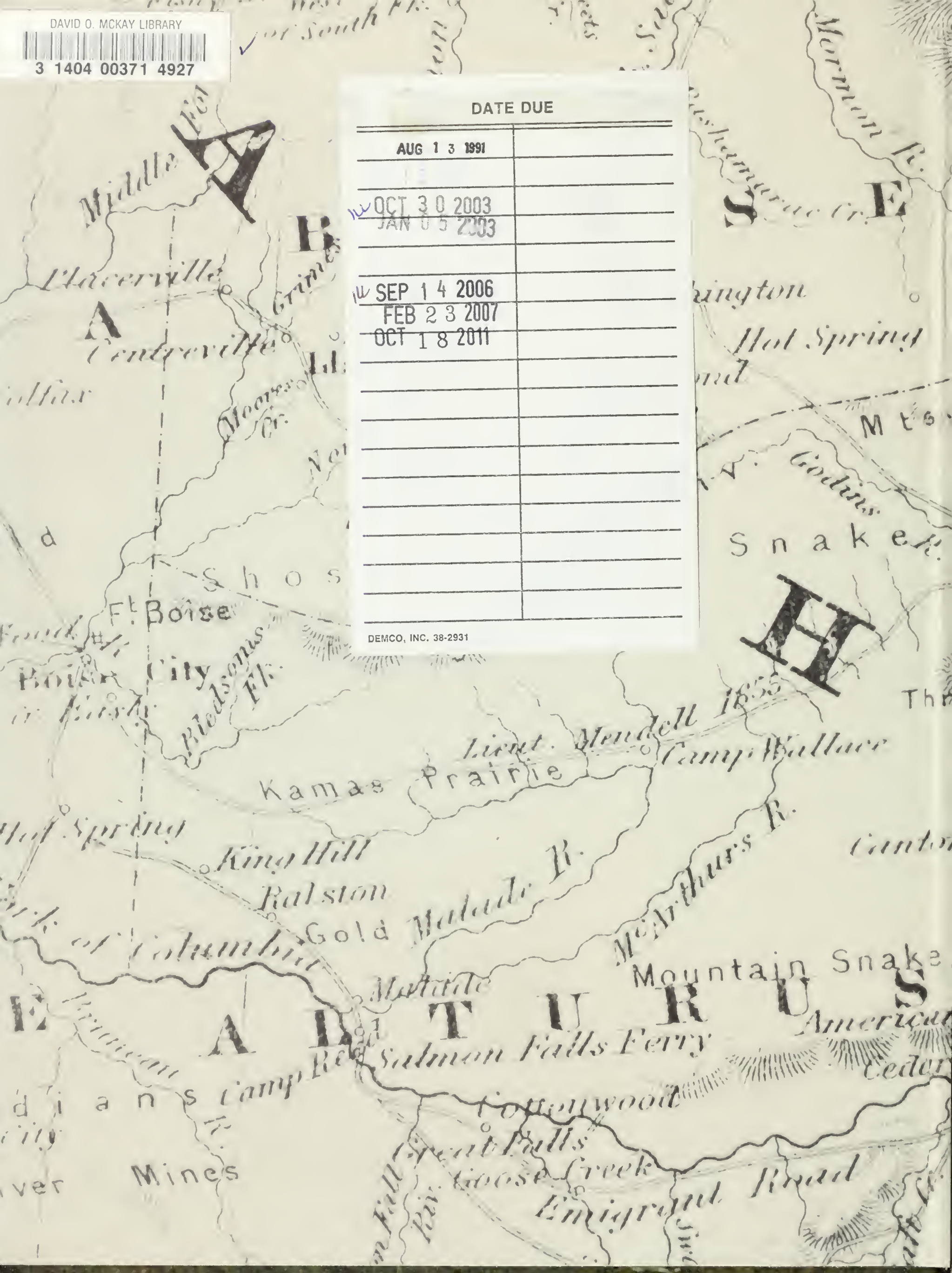


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BEAUTIFUL BONNEVILLE

County of Contrasts

HERFF JONES, Publisher

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Patti Sherlock

Art Editor: Kay Ingram
Photography Editor: Quincy M. Jensen
Layout: Alice Horton
Afton Bitton

HERFF JONES
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Published in 1989
Printed in the United States of America
Idaho Centennial Issue

Cover: Photographic artist Carl Casterline captured the Snake River at Idaho Falls in late spring 1989 and produced the full-color image for *Beautiful Bonneville's* cover.

Jack fence and fields in Bonneville County (Photo by Quincy Jensen)





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Acknowledgments

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And I thank my fellow editors: Afton and Patti for gathering history, for breathing life into it and for writing it in a colorful, factual and interesting way; Kay for her artistic, yet organized, handling of maps and artwork (she typed her fingers to the bone, too); and Quincy for the excellent care he took with each reproduction, each spur of the moment photo and for his photographer's eye that caught just the right shadow and light on requested pictures.

We thank our families and friends for understanding and supporting our cause. Kay thanks her grandfather A.H. Bush for nurturing in her an appreciation and respect for history—we echo her thanks to all of you, without whom, the book would not have been possible.

Kay Ingram, Afton Bitton, Alice Horton, Patti Sherlock Grimes and Quincy M. Jensen stand at the 1890 bridge abutments just south of Broadway Bridge—a very historical spot indeed! (Photo by Quincy Jensen)





Bonneville County Elected Officials, left to right:

1st row: Clifford Long, Bonneville County Commissioner; Clyde A. Burtenshaw, Bonneville County Commissioner; A. Wylie Snarr, Bonneville County Commissioner; Thomas Campbell, Idaho Falls Mayor; Paul L. Hovey, Idaho Falls City Council; Monty Montague, Idaho Falls Police Chief.
2nd row: Richard Ackerman, Bonneville County Sheriff; Ron Longmore, Bonneville County Clerk; Lila Jordan, Bonneville County Treasurer; Gary L. Paxman, Bonneville County Assessor; Melvin L. Erickson, Idaho Falls City Council; Sam S.

Sakaguchi, Idaho Falls City Council; Art Chandler, Idaho Falls City Council.

3rd row: Samuel Mackay, Ucon City Council; Greg J. Maeser, Ammon City Council; Michael Browning, Ammon City Council; Lary Larson, Ucon City Council; Jesse Cromwell, Swan Valley Mayor; Ann Griffel, Swan Valley City Council.

4th row: Robert Shaw, Ucon City Council; Doug Winchester, Ucon City Council; Jay Radford, Ucon Mayor; Joseph Bellin, Irwin Mayor; Don Jacobson, Swan Valley City Council.

Bonneville County Idaho Centennial Committee



Bonneville Couthy Idaho Centennial Committee, left to right:
1st row: Clifford Long, Bonneville County Commissioner; A. Wylie Snarr, Bonneville County Commissioner; Clyde A. Burtenshaw, Bonneville County Commissioner; Thomas Campbell, Idaho Falls Mayor; Beverly Branson, Chairman; Bernice McCowin, First Vice-Chairman; Nida Gyorfy, Treasurer; Ann Rydalch, State and County Centennial Committees; Ira Koplow, Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce; Bill Powell, Executive Secretary.

2nd row: Quincy Jensen, Second Vice-Chairman and Picture Editor for *Beautiful Bonneville*; Del Sprague, Public Safety Representative; Jim Gyorfy, Centennial Rifle and Float; Lisa Y. Hansen, Bonneville County Employees Association; John

Julian, Rotary Representative; Barbara Elliott, Iona Representative; Ellen Killian, Bonneville School District #93.

3rd row: Alice Horton, Editor of *Beautiful Bonneville*; Dottie Smith, Regional Dance; Joe Marker, Historian; Gary Paxman, Bonneville County Assessor; Dale Swanson, Centennial Trail and Idaho Falls River Parkway Greenbelt; Kristin King, Telephone Chairman; Velma Chandler, Secretary.

4th Row: Ronald M. Christensen, Centennial Air Show and Parade; Lary Larson, Ucon City Council; Louis Prim, Good Sam RV's.

5th row: Ken Koller, Snake River Whitewater Project; Susan Bower, Idaho Falls Symphony; Gayleen Meservey, Production; Elaine Adams, Idaho Falls Opera Theatre.

Bonneville County Idaho Centennial Committee

Chairman	Beverly Branson
First Vice-Chairman	Bernice McCowin
Second Vice-Chairman	Quincy Jensen
Secretary	Velma Chandler
Treasurer	Nida Gyorfy
Executive Secretary	Bill Powell
State Representative	Robb Brady

Elaine Adams
Susan Bower
Com. Clyde Burtenshaw
Linda Butler
Mayor Tom Campbell
Ron Christensen
Dave Christiansen
John Christofferson
George Clark
Scott Creager
Barbara Elliott
Rev. William Evans

Carol Girton
Mike Groth
Jim Gyorfy
Lisa Hansen
Alice Horton
Kay Ingram
John Julian
Kristin King
Ken Koller
Patsy Komoda
Ira Koplow
Lary Larson

Harry Lawroski
Com. Clifford Long
Judy Lussie
Mashelle McNeal
Joe Marker
Joe Marmo
Gayleen Meservey
Lee Nellis
Tom Ogawa
Grant Orme
Gary Paxman
Louis Prim

Paul Reep
Mel Richardson
Sen. Ann Rydalch
Dotti Smith
Del Sprague
Robert Stoneberg
Com. Wylie Snarr
Dale Swanson
John Volpe
Miles Willard
Helen Vanderbeek
Hank Zeile

Bonneville County Lasting Legacies

Eagle Rock USA, Bonneville Museum

Contact: Bob Bates

Completion Date: 1990

Beautiful Bonneville County of Contrasts

Contact: Alice Horton

Completion Date: November 1, 1989

Idaho Falls River Parkway Greenbelt and Centennial Trail

Contact: Dale Swanson

City Planning Department

Completion Date: 1990-1991

Whitewater Kayak Raceway

Contact: Ken Koller

Paul Reep

Completion Date: Summer 1991

Grand Entrance

Beautification of Broadway Off-Ramp

Contact: Bonneville County Commissioners

Completion Date: 1990-1991

International Rotary Peace Park

Pedersen Sportsman Park

Rotary Centennial Park

John's Hole Bridge Forebay

Contact: John Julian

Mike Groth

Completion Date: 1990-1991

Idaho Falls Sister Cities Japanese Garden

Pedersen Sportsman Park

Contact: Beverly Branson

Completion Date: Spring 1990

Centennial Information Center Caboose

Broadway Greenbelt

Contact: Bill Powell

Completion Date: 1990

In the 4th of July Parade 1989, the Bonneville County Idaho Centennial Committee's float won the "Sweepstakes" award.







Introduction

“Celebrate Idaho!” One sees this exhortation everywhere — on license plates, road signs and logos; in newspapers and special magazines. The ubiquitous saying captures a citizen’s sense of belonging to a state worth extolling. As Idaho commemorates its beginnings as a bonafide state in 1890 (along with Wyoming, Montana, Washington and the two Dakotas), many Idahoans participate in projects to preserve historical places and objects and to improve their communities. Horns, bells and light display, sound, peal and flash “to wake the town and tell the people.”

Among these gala groups is the Bonneville Centennial Committee, who has named an editorial troupe to tell the story of Bonneville County.

Bonneville County history is deeply involved with the land and the water.

Thousands of years ago volcanic eruptions, inundating floods and severe climatic changes cracked and smoothed this area where prehistoric peoples hunted and fished. Lava intrusions, warming and cooling climatic cycles were the sculptors of this land from which early peoples harvested wild fruits and vegetables. Forty-five hundred years ago, these early peoples were making simple tools — spear points, bows and arrows, mortars and pestles; were creating intricate rock art, painted and incised. About twelve hundred years ago, early Indians were crafting pottery and basketry used for cooking and gathering.

The several hundred generations of early peoples in this area who shifted and migrated with the lengthy climatic cycles and the impermanent seasonal cycles survived in this area and adapted to their ever-changing habitat. Through experience and with the development of new ways of living, they harmonized as best they could with their ever changing environment.

Southeastern Idaho’s historically

Pictured are the desert to the west and the Eagle Rock Ferry site 9 miles upstream from Idaho Falls. (Photos by Quincy Jensen)

known peoples in the early 18th century were the Shoshoni, Lemhi and Paiute Indians. By mid 18th century, with the expansion of European settlements in the West, these Indians faced the impact of European culture. Horses and tools were beneficial; diseases—smallpox and others—were devastating. In the early 19th century came explorers, scouts, fur hunting brigades, trappers, fur traders and missionaries. There is record through journals and maps, that in 1808 John Colter passed through and in 1810 Major Andrew Henry ranged the Upper Snake River Valley. In 1832 the man, whose name would later denote the county, Captain Benjamin Louis Eulalie de Bonneville was in the vicinity (though not factually in present day Bonneville County.) By mid 19th century, the Snake River Plain — mosaic of sagebrush, desert and lava — and the Snake River were the welcomers to prospectors, miners, packers, freighters and pioneers.

The Idaho Territory was organized March 3, 1863, out of Washington, Nebraska and Dakota Territories, with Lewiston the capital, and William H. Wallace the Governor. Wallace was appointed by Abraham Lincoln, then President of the United States, a close personal friend. The Civil War was raging at the same time the West was developing. New laws in the early 1860's helped the West to grow: the Homestead Act of 1862; acts for aid to agricultural and mechanical colleges; land grants to Union Pacific and Central Pacific railroads.

In 1862 the Eagle Rock Ferry at Flathead Crossing established by the Barnard brothers of Box Elder, Utah, was a viable means of fording the Snake River. Immigrants, trappers, calvary on expeditions to guard the overland communications during the Civil War, crossed on the "Barnard Ferry" (accent on the second syllable). In May of 1863, the Eagle Rock Ferry, built, or perhaps remodeled, by Harry Rickards and Bill Hickman at the Barnard Ferry site and named for the eagles' nest on Cedar Island, crossed the Snake a few miles up river from the present site of Idaho Falls. While this ferry was being constructed, Rickards blazed a new and shortened road from Soda Springs to Eagle Rock.

He persuaded two immigrant trains, one freight train and an exploring party to come from Soda Springs to Eagle Rock Ferry by his new route. They reached Eagle Rock June 18, 1863 and on June 20 two hundred and thirty persons made the Eagle Rock Ferry crossing. Matt Taylor, a freighter, and associates purchased Hickman's Ferry in 1864 and the site became known as Taylor's Crossing. In 1865 down river from the Eagle Rock Ferry, where the Snake rushed over the cascades and between high black lava rock walls, Taylor built a toll bridge to cross the turbulent river. The first span of logs was erected in the winter when the river was frozen over. It was a modified Queen truss bridge: the frame's 45-foot timbers were selected, cut and hewn at Beaver Canyon and hauled eighty miles to the site late in the fall of 1864. The bridge opened for business in May of 1865. The establishments at both the bridge site and the old ferry location were way stations on the freighter trails. Supplies, clothing, liquor, meals to serve, fresh horses, blacksmithing in iron work and repairs, and stacks of wild hay for fodder were available for the passers through. The Postal Service came to Taylor's Bridge in 1866. Robert Anderson was appointed the first Postmaster on December 4, 1866 and the telegraph line beginning in Salt Lake City and extending to Montana, reached Taylor's Bridge June 6, 1866.

From 1862 to 1890 the face of Bonneville County (then a part of Bingham County) changed, diversified and expanded. In the late 1860's the gold rush town of Keenan City in the south central part of the county boasted a population of nearly 1,000 people, half of whom were Chinese, all of whom were touched with gold fever. In 1870 another nearby gold rush town, Caribou City, sprang up. The population at Taylor's Bridge also grew.

In 1872, the town Taylor's Bridge became officially known as Eagle Rock. By the time the Utah and Northern narrow-gauge railroad trains puffed across the Snake River at Eagle Rock on the railroad bridge June 12, 1879, families were arriving in the area. They settled along the streams, planted crops and clustered into communities. In 1878, the first large scale irrigation ditch project was



started by George and Robert Smith. (It was later turned over to a land developing company headed by J.C. Anderson, B.F. White and Dr. Woodward.) It was a much larger endeavor than the irrigation ditch built in 1866 by Thomas Louder to water the vegetables he raised for the stage station and northbound travelers. Aside from the goldmining at Caribou Mountain, farming and cattle raising were the first major industries. Before the coming of the railroad, Matt Taylor had bought and trailed a herd of cattle into this valley. Early settlers took water from the Snake turning arid land



into productive land for the crops and animal herds. The Utah and Northern Railroad Company made Eagle Rock a division point in 1880 and a lively crop of railroad workers sprang up. With this development came the building of wooden business buildings, log dwellings and a population boom. Schools and churches, hotels, restaurants and saloons were raised and erected by industrious, energetic pioneers amid the blowing sands of summer and the chilling snows of winter.

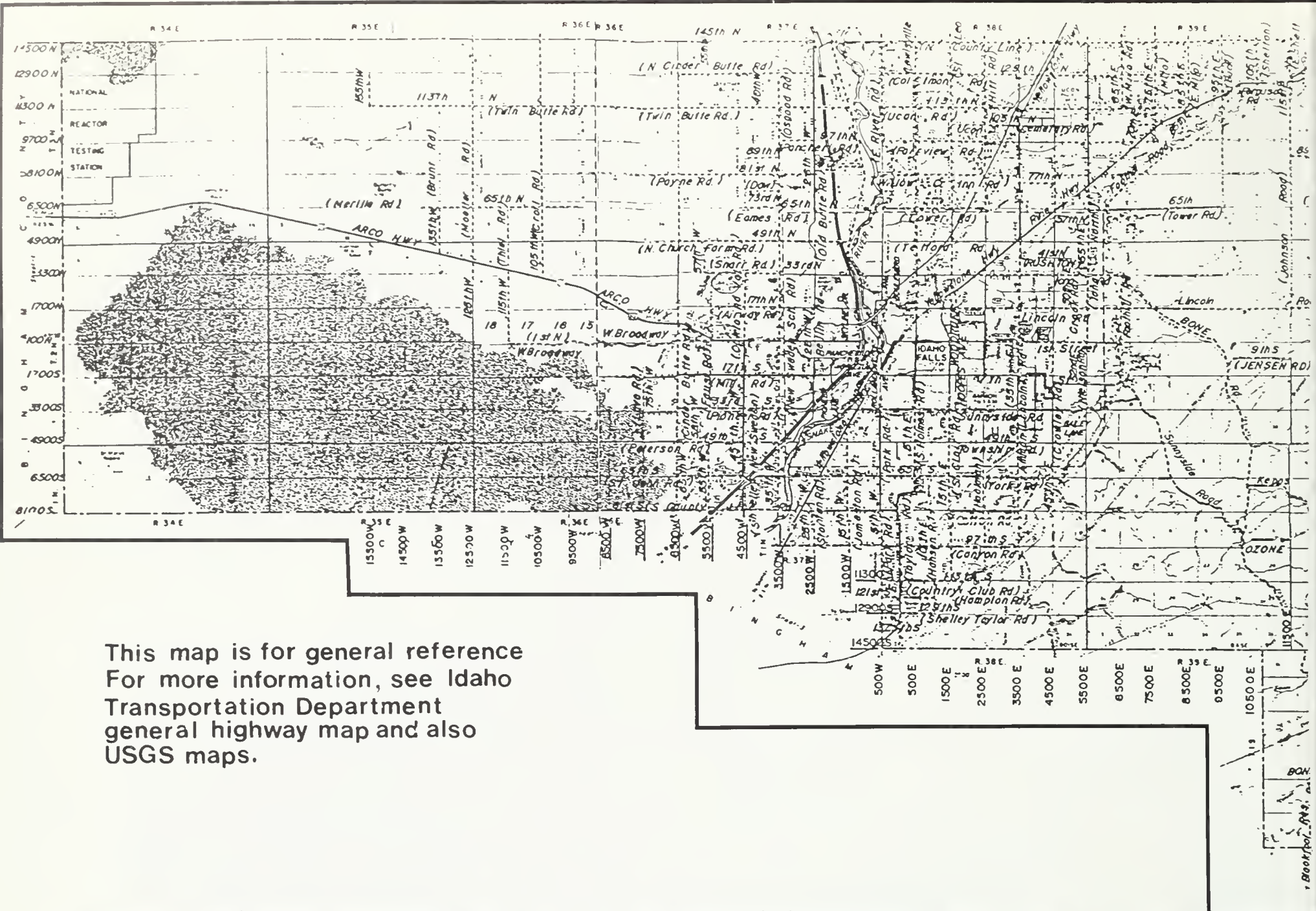
The beginnings of present Bonneville County were closely associated with the

land and the water: The Snake River Plain—sagebrush, desert, lava—and the Snake River flowing through. To early explorers, trappers and traders the river was an obstacle, too dangerous for travel, a barrier to be forded only in certain places at low tide. Then the pioneers came. They built ferries and bridges to cross the Snake, and eventually tamed the river for irrigation, recreation and electrical power. The Snake became the lifeblood of the county as the early settlers became the spirit of the county. Tilling, planting, platting, they forged the path for future commerce and indus-

try. Inspired by the pristine beauty and expanse of the area, these hard working leaders branched out from the river to define and determine their destinies.

Let us celebrate beautiful Bonneville, county of contrast.

Cloud-topped Caribou Mountain beckoned miners in gold rush days. (Photo by Quincy Jensen)



This map is for general reference
 For more information, see Idaho
 Transportation Department
 general highway map and also
 USGS maps.

A farming scene northwest of Idaho Falls in the winter of 1985 (Photo by Robert Bower)

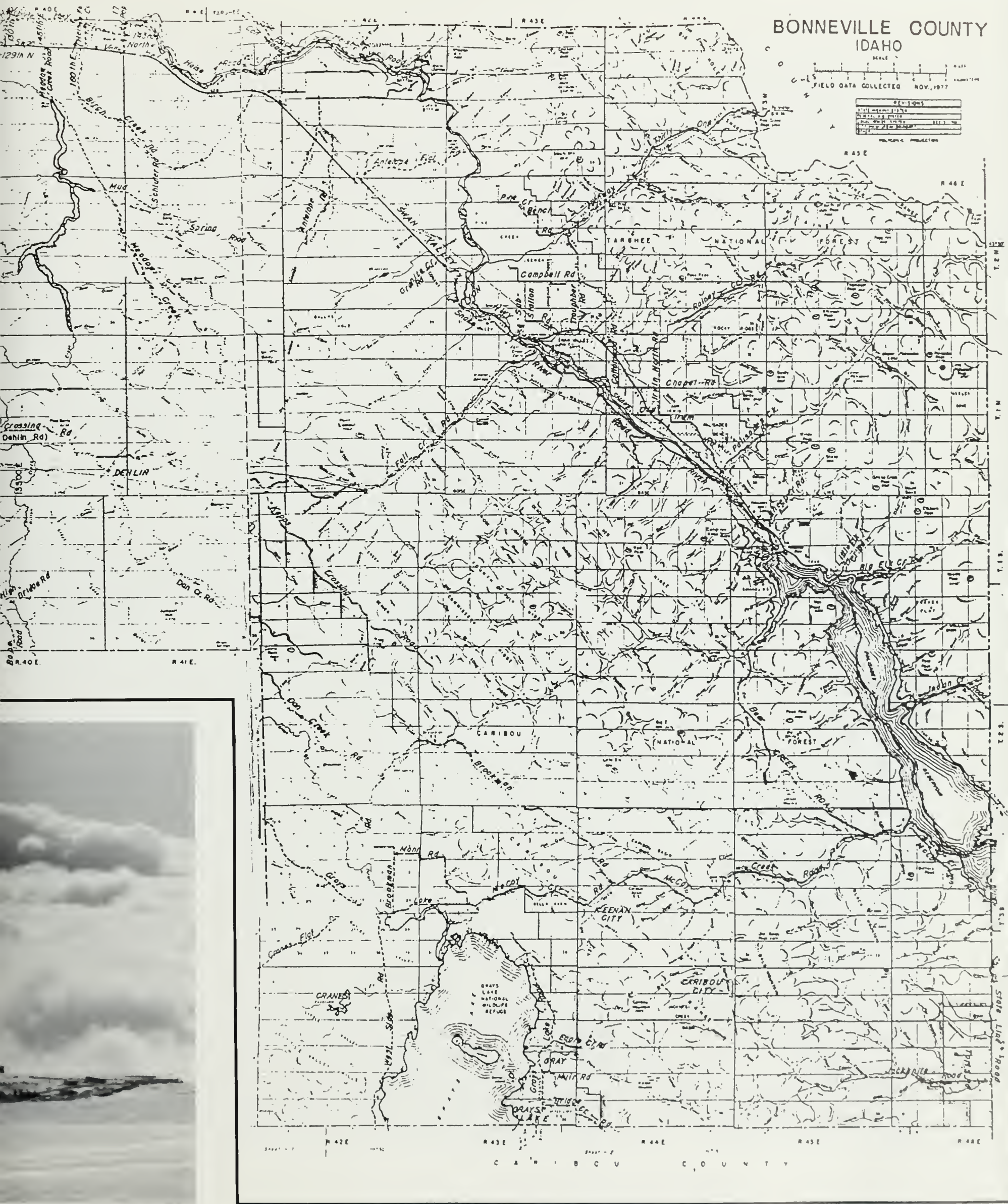


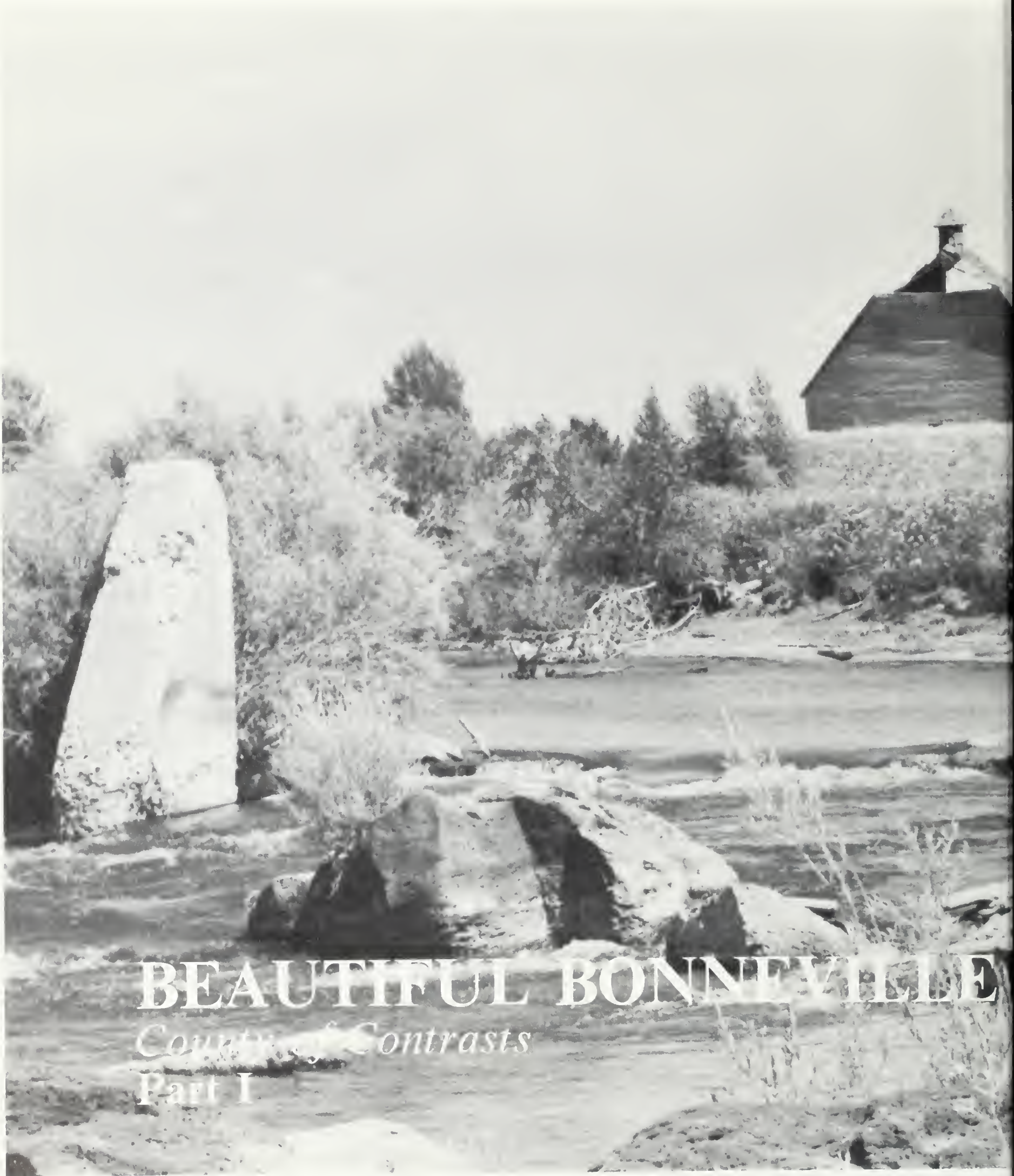
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LOCATION	SEE 1
PROJECT	SEE 1

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GENERAL BONNEVILLE COUNTY

Alice Horton
Editor and Writer

The history of Bonneville County is neither staid nor stiff nor stuffy. It breathes with the enthusiasm, energy and internal fortitude of the early dreamers and doers of the area. The dreamers and doers of our century still respect and yield to those natural forces—Mother Nature is much in evidence here—so raw and stark in past centuries. Water and land are still the common denominators with which we live and grow. Through the industrious, steady efforts of our forefathers to tame our natural forces and resources, and our continued efforts to do so, the citizens of Bonneville County can look beyond the basic human physical needs of warmth, shelter and food to the mental and spiritual needs of the present day.

Desert, buttes, lava, mountains, foothills, meadows, valleys and the Snake River Plain are the unique geologic formations combined in the topography of Bonneville County. Archaeologists are exploring and excavating open campsites and rock shelters of pre-historic and historic peoples in the area. Salvage archeology is carried out in conjunction with construction of dams and reservoirs, and the drilling and mining for mineral deposits. Even the citizen hikers, walkers and diggers of Bonneville County have found buffalo skulls, arrowheads, stoneage tools and an occasional Indian burial plot.

Bonneville County (Photo by Robert Bower) Benjamin Louis Eulalie de Bonneville and signature on page 16.



B. L. E. Bonneville

*Beautiful
Bonneville . . .*

A "sundog" lights the western sky. This view of the Eskimo-named phenomenon was taken from Foothill Drive, east of Iona. (Photo by Robert Bower)



The uniquely beautiful contrasts of Bonneville County beckon. The Snake River shows the contrast of season: summer greenery at the Falls, winter ice at the Gem State Electric Project, spring evening south of Pancheri Bridge and autumn boating by Keefer Island. (Summer photo by Afton Bitton; winter, spring and autumn photos by Robert Bower)







Industriousness marks western Bonneville County. At the end of Lincoln Road, a view of contrasts to the west from "Big Hill" encompasses farmlands, industries, cities, desert and buttes. Installation of the bulb turbine at the Lower Power Plant brought electrical benefits from the Snake River. Navy Personnel board the INEL Bus on the workday journey to the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory. First rays of early morning sun at the Gem State Electric Project give light but little warmth as a construction worker draws nearer to the fire on the banks of the Snake River. (Photos by Robert Bower)





Times do change - the demise of Eagle Rock Street is viewed from land once occupied by potato warehouses.

Idaho Centennial Quilt 1988 was created by the Patchworkers, a quilt club in Idaho Falls. From early Indians and trappers to present day nuclear energy and agricultural industry, each block depicts a significant part of Idaho's growth and history. Individual designs are by

Devona Davis, Sannette Wells, Margaret Harris, Beverly Hindman, Nancy Lechelt, Margaret Cuda, Dorothy Taggart, Nancy Piirto, Ivy McMurray, Martha Knight, Caryl Zimmerman, Mary Jane Rigby, Adele Boison, Olive Davis and Howardyne Stark. The quilt was mounted for this photograph on the Alexander Barn, Hackman Road.

(Photos by Quincy Jensen)



Edith Lovell, historian and writer, displays her bicentennial book, *Captain Bonneville's County*. Lovell has a new manuscript waiting for publication on Captain Bonneville himself. "Early Bird" Bob Burtenshaw has given the friendly informative wake-up call for Bonneville County radio listeners for thirty-seven years. (Photos by Quincy Jensen)





Artist Gloria Miller Allen's commemorative watercolor painting, "We the People of Idaho", was commissioned in memory of the signing of the Constitution, and in celebration of the peoples of Idaho. (Photo by Quincy Jensen) Artist's statement: "From the grandeur of the Sawtooth Mountains stretching across the page, to the grass roots of agriculture with the 'Stars and Stripes' unfolding in the center, this painting celebrates the history, personality, spirit and beauty of the nation, the state and her people. Also presented symbolically are gems for our min-

ing industry and the 'Gem State'; a skier representing our wonderful recreational opportunities, and of course, the 'Famous Potatoes'. Scientists are pictured to represent not only Idaho's state colleges and universities, but also our large National Laboratory. The Bald Eagle soars over the mountains and the Snake River as a symbol of Idaho's abundant wildlife and free spirit. History and heritage are depicted by the Native American, the Pioneers with their oxen, and the two important dates of Statehood and the signing of the Constitution.

Memorials, honoring the men and women whose strong beliefs in the principles of freedom, have been created throughout Bonneville County. Tom Criswell puts finishing details on the clay model of the Idaho Vietnam Memorial to be built at Freeman Park in Idaho Falls. (Photo by Robert Bower)

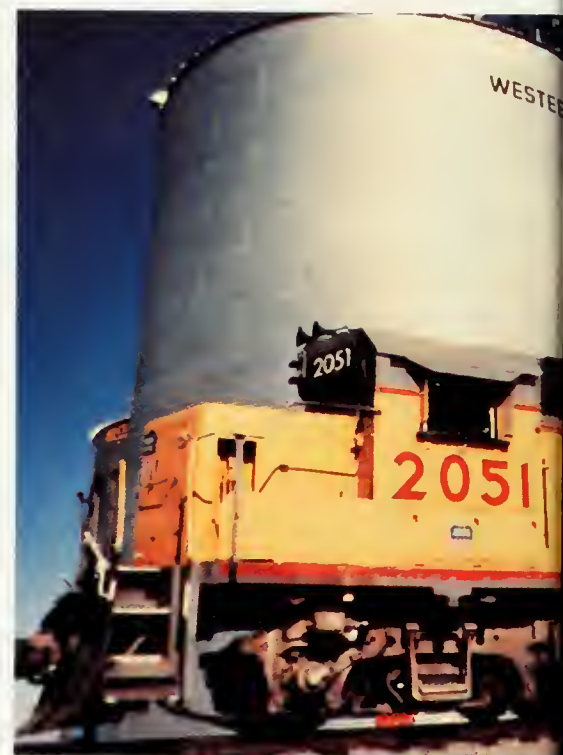


Shoshoni, Lemhi and Paiute Indians were some of the very early peoples in this area. "Fancy Dancer", a Shoshoni Bannock Indian in watercolor by artist Marjorie Roemer Clearwater, captures his past in colorful celebration and remembered tradition. (Photo by Quincy Jensen)



Water, the lifeblood of the county . . . present day canal systems branching from the Snake River are an intricate network of feeders and laterals, head-gates and dams. Conservation reservoirs collect watersheds. Underground water is tapped by deep wells and brought to the surface. The Idaho Falls water tower built in 1937 has a holding capacity of 500,000 gallons of water. The water pumped into the tower equalizes the water pressure in the city's water lines and, when needed, can provide emergency water. (Photo by Bob Schweiger)

The thirst of the land has been assuaged largely by varied irrigation methods which have been improved constantly. Handline sprinklers spray fields of grain off Highway 26. (Photo by Robert Bower) Irrigation and rich soil insure the most famous crop, potatoes, as well as a variety of farm and garden produce. A Union Pacific train accelerates past the Osgood grain bins after picking up cars loaded with wheat. (Photo by Monte LaOrange)

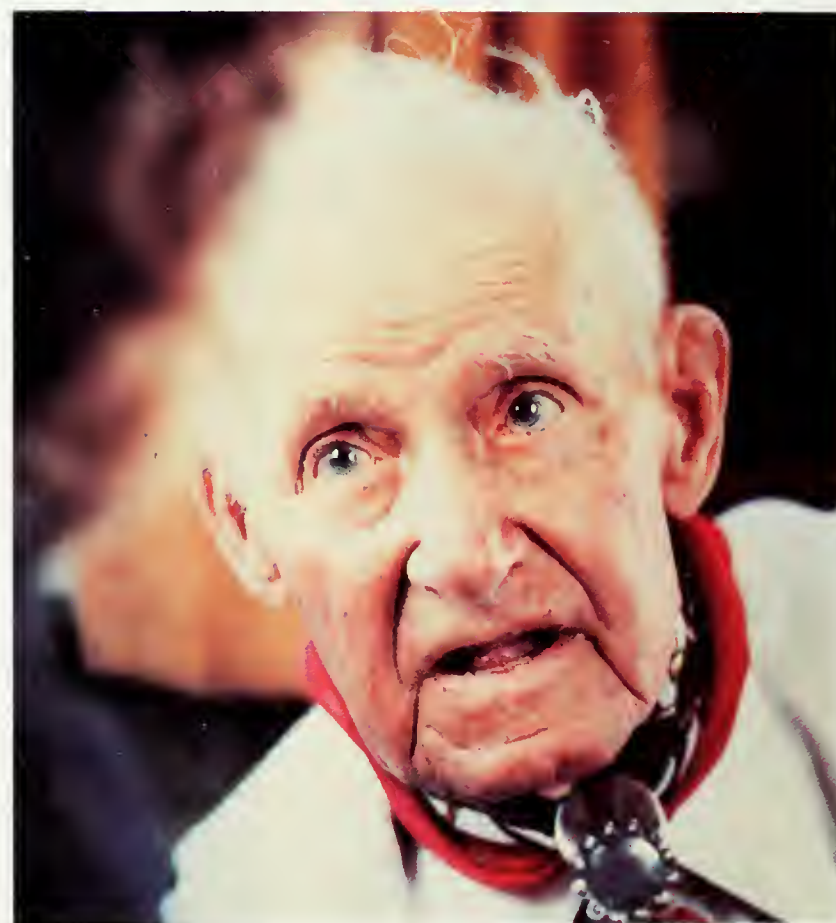




Potatoes, freshly dug, move by on a conveyor belt as a field worker looks for dirt clods and rocks amidst the famous tubers. (Photos by Monte LaOrange)

Fruits, vegetables and flowers thrive side by side in the September garden on the Carney farm, Pioneer Road. (Photo by Robert Bower)





A favorite tradition of rodeo-goers is the War Bonnet Round-Up, oldest rodeo in Idaho. Held each August at Sandy Downs, the War Bonnet challenges participants and delights audiences. (Photo by Monte LaOrange) Tom Shurtleff of Iona was the 1980 Grand Marshall of the War Bonnet. (Photo by Robert Bower)



Pilot Ed Browning has a bird's eye view to watch the traditional Bonneville County 4th of July Parade march south on Boulevard. (Photo by Quincy Jensen)

Visitors from Tokai Mura Japan, Idaho Falls' Sister City, pose at Tautphaus Park in their "happi" coats after the 4th of July Parade. The park's water fountain seems to blossom from the center parasol. (Photo by Bob Schweiger)

On September 18, 1987, Bonneville County celebrated the 200th Birthday of the Constitution of the United States. The Fire Bell (once a working bell on the top of City Hall) rang for 200 seconds in the National Bell Ringing and twenty-five hundred balloons rose from the Bonneville County Museum's front lawn. (Photo by Monte LaOrange)



A young art show enthusiast shakes hands with "Uncle Sam" at Kate Curley Park. For over 35 years, artists from near and far have brought their wares to the summer Sidewalk Art Show in Idaho Falls. (Photo by Monte LaOrange)







Religion, a sustaining part of peoples' spiritual lives, has a beauty often represented in its houses of worship. A full moon halos Moroni atop the LDS Temple in Idaho Falls. The Mormon pioneers coming from Utah to this area in the late 1800's brought their religion and second and third generation frontier skills. The stained glass window is from the First Presbyterian Church, choir level, Idaho Falls. **(Photos by Robert Bower)** Celebrations and traditions from a blend of forefathers, are woven into the fabric of Bonneville County. Christmas lights, trimming the trees on Memorial Drive and the look-out on River Parkway create a magical fairy land for river walkers and passing motorists. **(Memorial Drive photo by Robert Bower and River Parkway photo by Quincy Jensen)**

On the following page "The Red Barn" is remembered in watercolor by artist Fred Ochi. Built in 1920 by Mr. Joseph Ririe on the Ammon-Lincoln road, it stood for 51 years before burning down Halloween night, 1971. **(Photo by Quincy Jensen)**

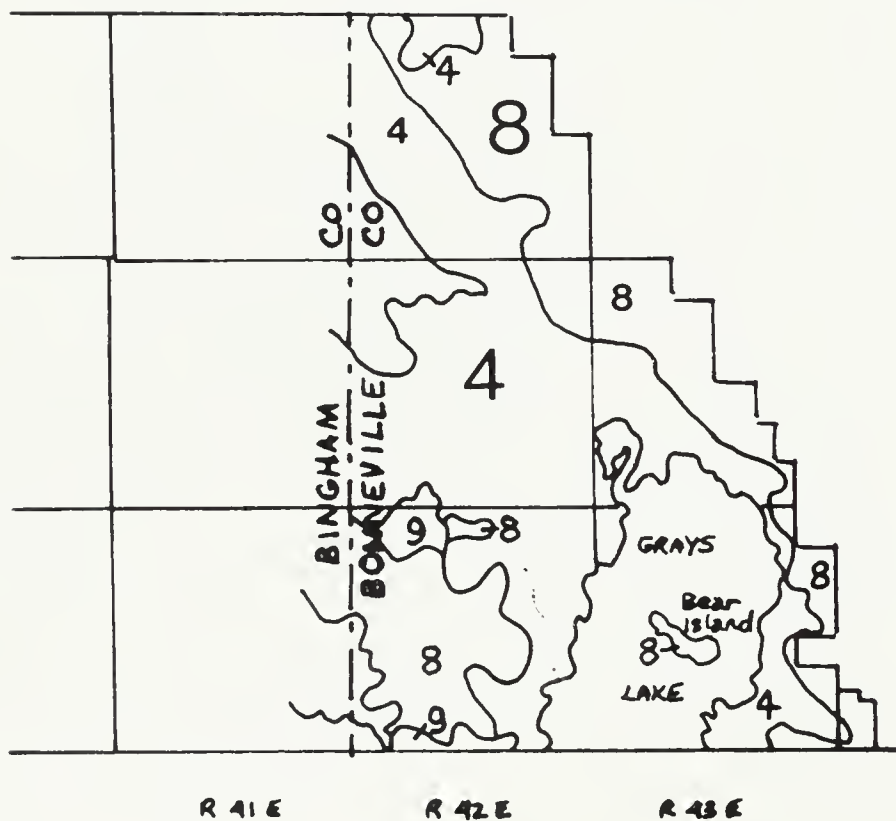
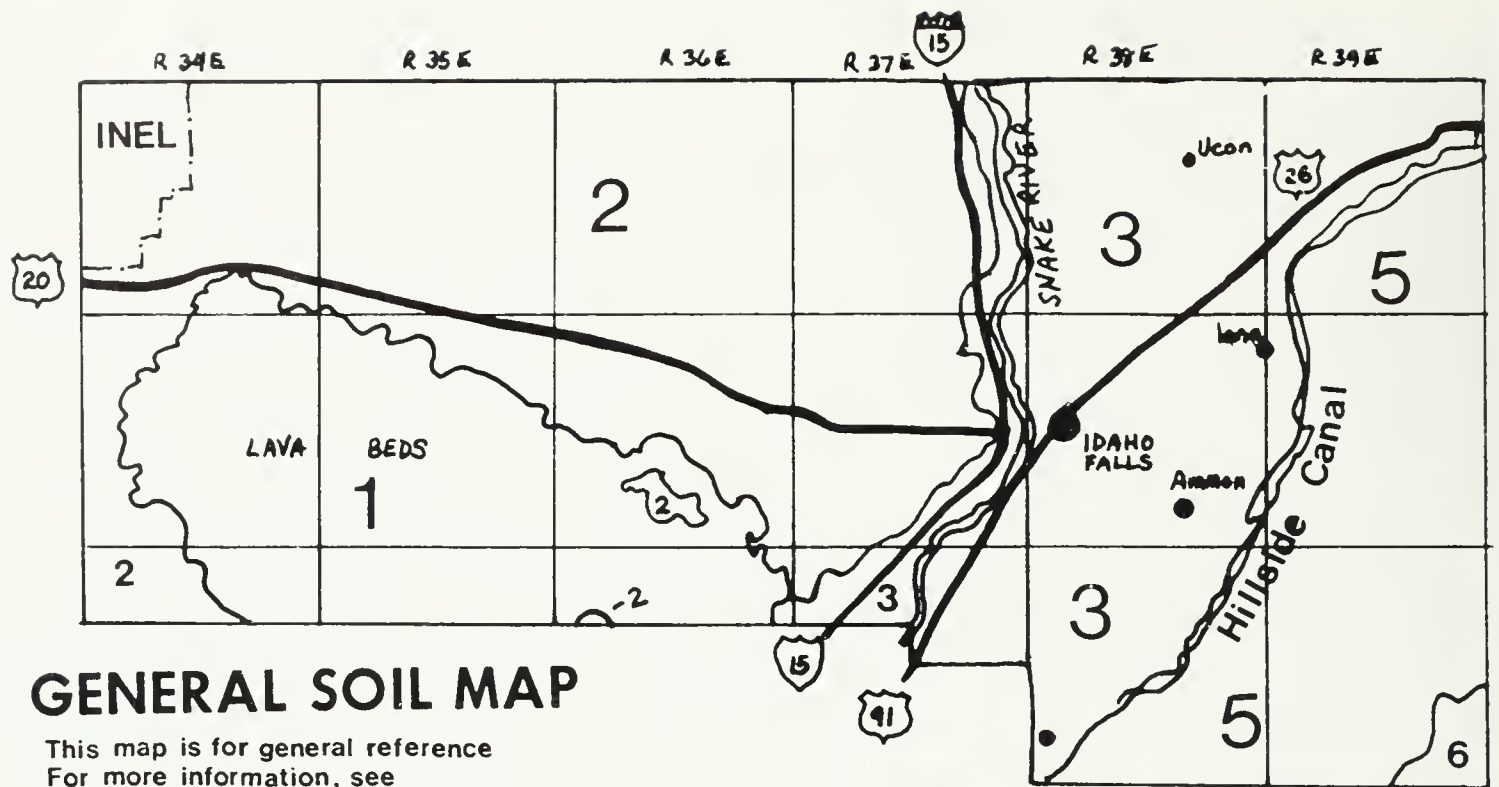


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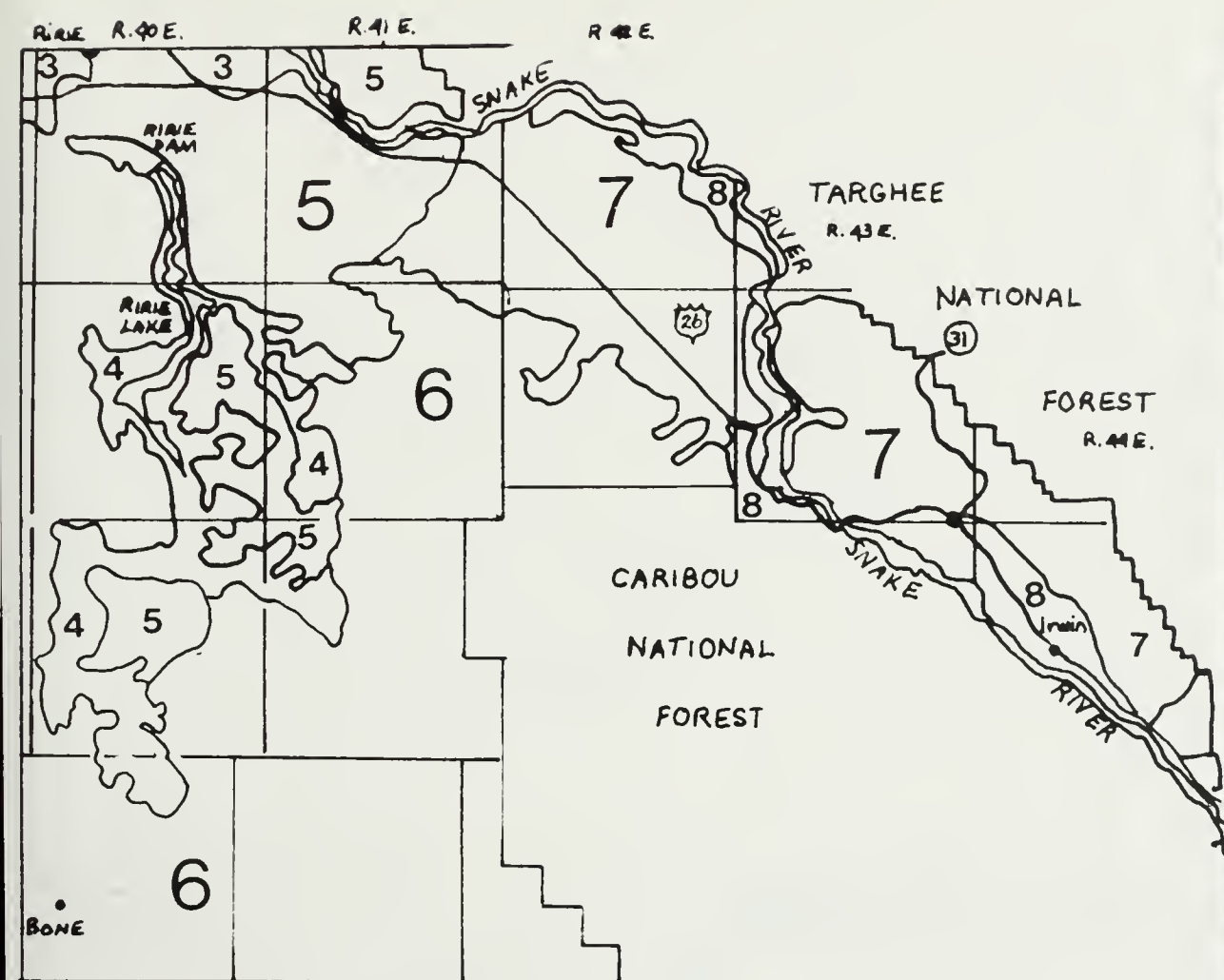


Photographic artist Carl Casterline captures on film spirited horses and the constant stockman. These descriptive scenes of the West can be found throughout Bonneville County. (Photos by Carl Casterline)





Palisades area. (Photo by Afton Bitton)



MAP UNITS

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Lava flows-Polatis. Lava flows and undulating, moderately deep, well drained soils, on basalt plains |
| 2 | Pancheri-Polatis. Nearly level to steep, moderately deep and very deep, well drained soils, on basalt plains |
| 3 | Bannock Paul-Paesi. Nearly level, very deep, well drained soils, on flood plains |
| 4 | Torriorhents Cryoborolls. Rock outcrop. Very steep, shallow to very deep, well drained soils, and Rock outcrop, on sides of mountains and canyons |
| 5 | Ririe Potell. Gently sloping to steep, very deep, well drained soils, on loess foothills |
| 6 | Dranyon Paulson. Rock outcrop. Sloping to very steep, deep and very deep, well drained soils, and Rock outcrop, on mountainsides |
| 7 | Tetonia Rin Ririe. Nearly level to very steep, very deep, well drained soils, on loess foothills and mountainsides |
| 8 | Hobacker Badgerton Variant. Typic Cryaquolls. Nearly level to moderately steep, very deep, well drained and poorly drained soils, on flood plains |



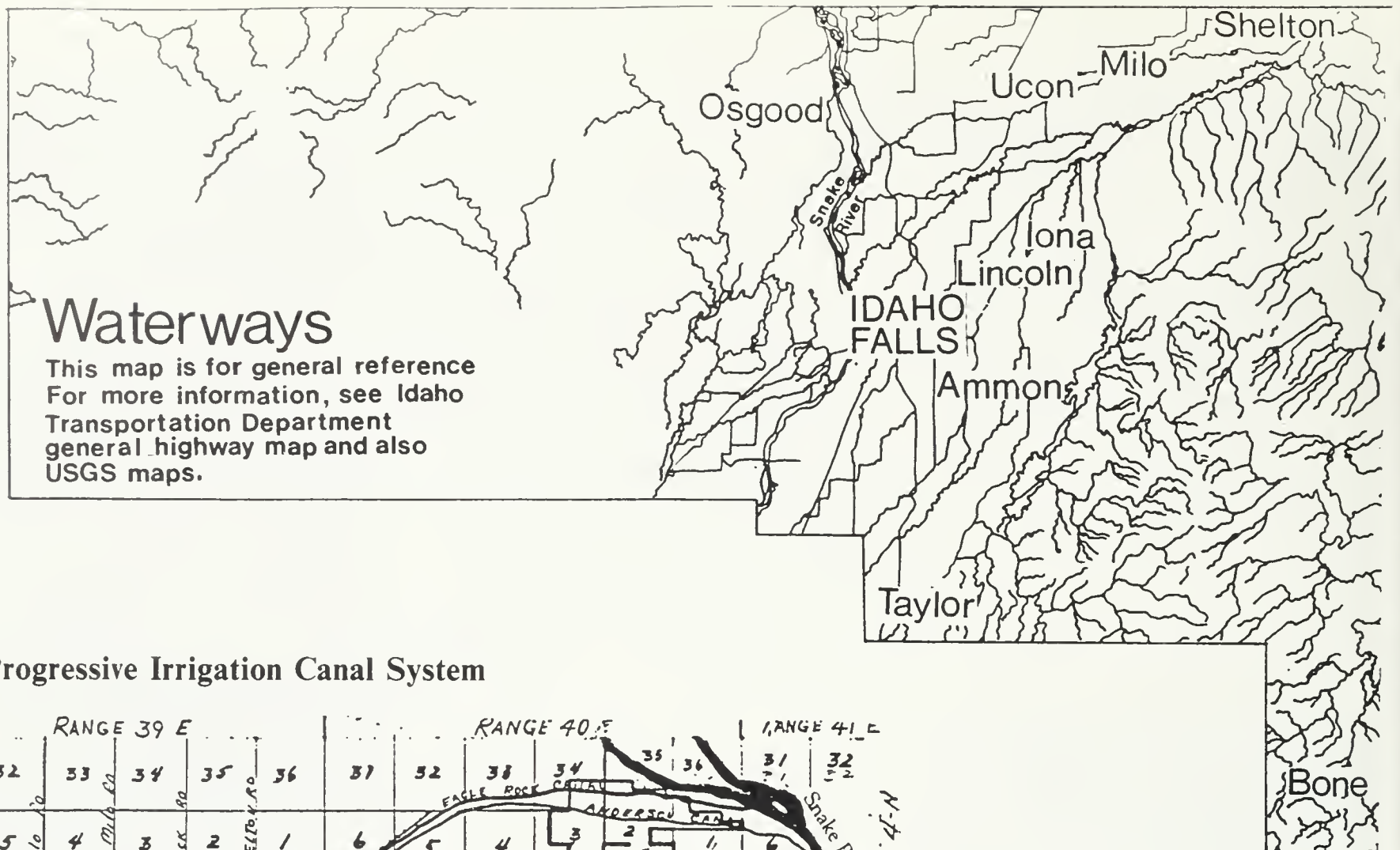
Travertine quarry. (Photo by Alice Horton)

Bonneville County covers an area of 1,896 square miles. The eastern side borders the rough canyons of the Targhee National Forest where fossil aquatic creatures dating back millions of years show that it was at one time covered by an inland sea. The ice age left two glacier basins, Upper and Lower Palisades Lakes. Elkhorn Peak, 9,988 feet, at the head of Little Elk Creek near Palisades Dam is the county's highest elevation, followed closely by other peaks in the same general area: Sheep Creek Peak,

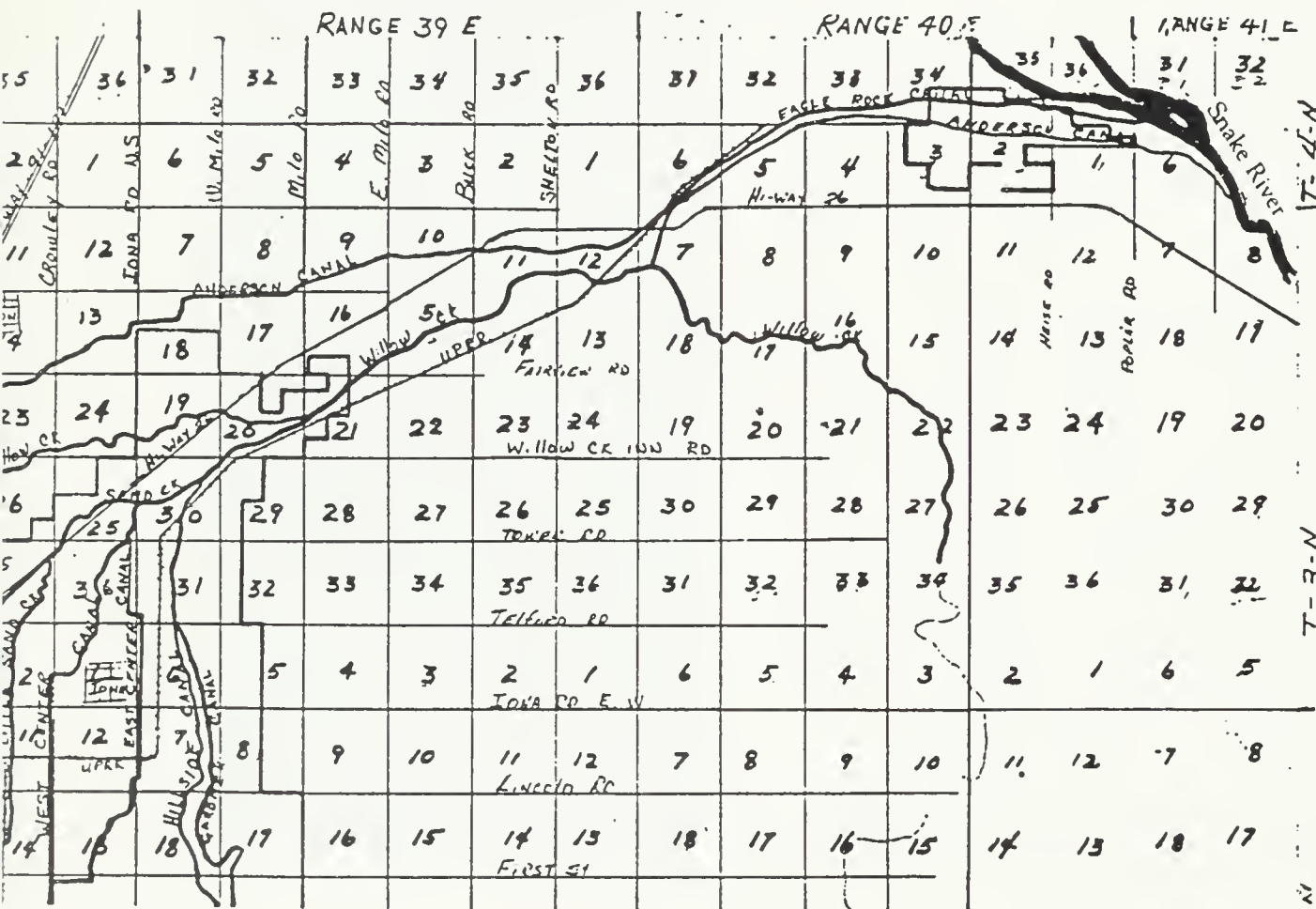
9,940, Palisades Peak, 9,778; Baldy Mountain, 9,830 all northeast of the Snake River. Caribou Mountain, 9,830 feet is southwest of the Snake River. The County's lowest elevation is 4,620 feet where the Snake River crosses the Bonneville-Bingham county line three miles northeast of the neighboring town of Shelley.

The upland area of mountains and valleys in eastern Bonneville County is part of the Idaho-Wyoming chain that extends from the Utah Uintah moun-

tains on the south to the northern volcanic plateau of the Yellowstone. Geologists report that this area is composed in the main of a complex aggregate of folded and faulted sedimentary rocks, sandstone, limestone and shale that are locally intruded by and interbedded with igneous rocks of several different kinds and ages. These sedimentary rock formations extend from the pre-Cambrian to the Mesozoic geologic eras. They were at various times subject to elevation above and subsidence below sea level.



Progressive Irrigation Canal System



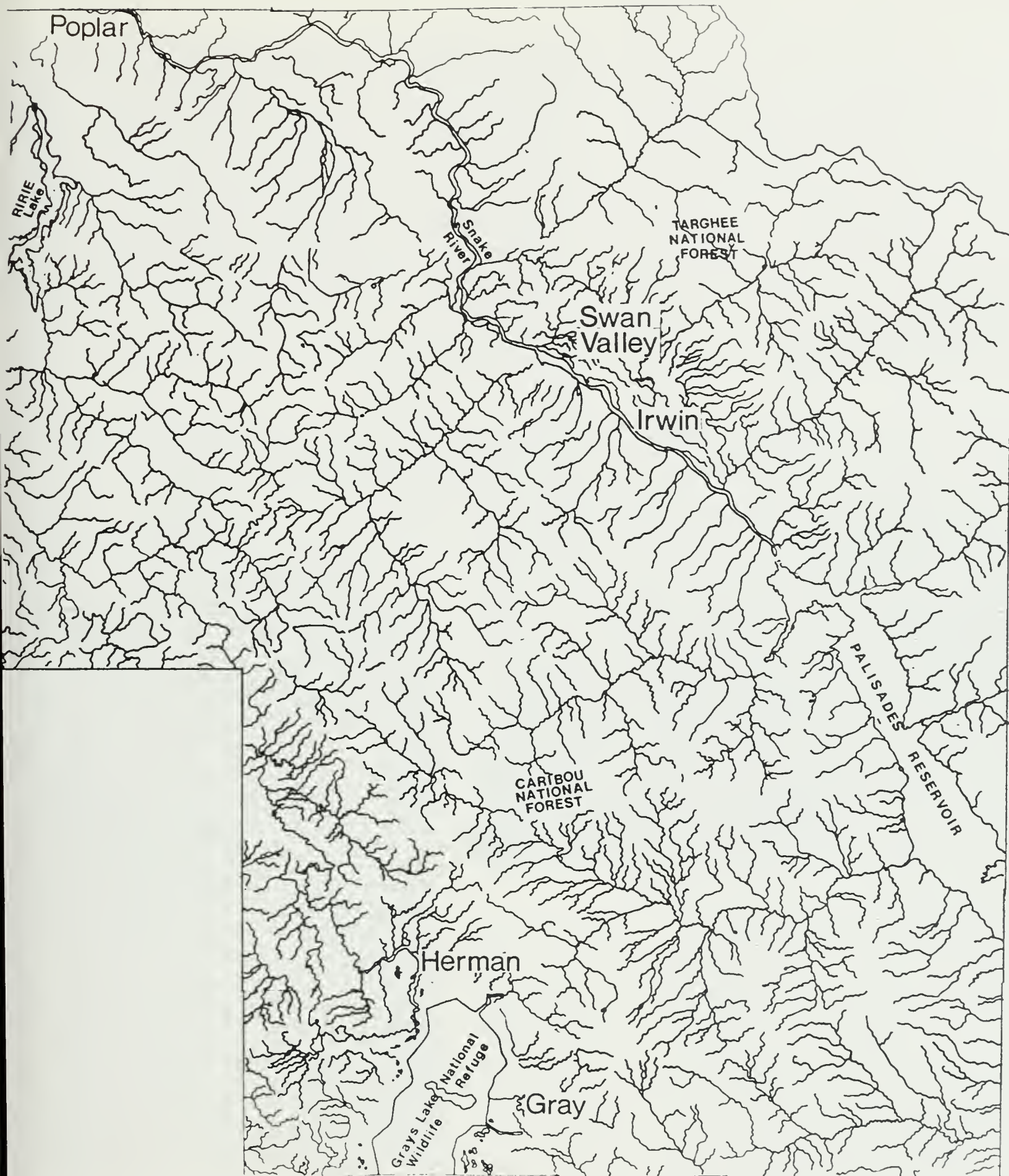
The older lava formations were generally of the light colored types such as rhyolite and andesite with a small amount of the dark basalt. In recent post-Tertiary geologic time the lava formations in the eastern foothill regions and those in the western Snake River Valley and Plain were deposited. Consolidated ash, soft sandstone-like rocks, from these rhyolitic eruptions were found in the foothills by early day residents and used for building purposes. Presently, building blocks are processed with these rhyolitic ash and pumice deposits.

In western Bonneville County the basaltic lava flows on the Snake River Plain were of enormous volume. The most recent lava eruptions were of highly fluid black basalts some of which may not be more than 2,000 years old. These flows, some bare and free of any soil, some covered with soils deposited and seeded by wind and water are a distinctive feature of the surface topography. Individual lava flows are mostly 25 to 50 feet thick. They changed the course of the Snake River many times as the lava dammed the river channels and forced

the Snake to cut new channels, which, in turn, were filled by later lava flows. The Snake was pushed by lava southward to its present location. When considerable time elapsed between flows, soil deposits and water sediments layered the Snake River Plain. Large volumes of water now travel the underground lava-filled river valleys westward through drainage channels formed by poor contact between lava flows and side walls of buried river channels. These underground waters reappear as springs in the Hagerman Valley area. It is believed that the older acidic lava flows that exist in the foothills west of Idaho Falls continue on westward beneath the basaltic flows of the Snake River Plain forming an impermeable basement floor on which the groundwater moves.

Water flows beneath and upon the land surface of Bonneville County. From the Big Hole Mountains on the east come Indian, Big and Little Elk, Palisades, Rainey and Pine Creeks to the South Fork of the Snake River. At Calamity Point, named for early day logging and raft disasters, Palisades Reservoir, completed in 1956, stores water for irrigation, power and recreation.

From Caribou National Forest on the West come McCoy Creek, Bear Creek



and other small streams to Palisades Reservoir. A few miles below the earth-filled dam, Fall Creek cascades over a fifty foot ledge into the Snake River. Burns Creek joins the Snake from the north. After Palisades Reservoir, the Snake wends through Swan Valley, then flows northwesterly through the South Fork Canyon — thirty miles of pristine beauty. Ririe Dam is on Willow Creek.

Where mountain crags and pastures end, hills slope downward to the valley floor. The streams and creeks that splash

and surge to the Snake River were not in the beginning, nor are they now, thought of for large scale irrigation duties. Dry farm pioneers fallowed cultivated fields for a season to conserve moisture, then planted wheat in the fall, hopeful for sprouts and a few inches of green growth before the snows came. Dry farm crops surviving the winter, and watered by early summer rains, grew tall and green, then ripened to gold in July. Though machinery, seed and soil technology have been greatly improved, the pattern is the

same now as it was then. Dry farming still requires a combination of science, faith and cooperation from Mother Nature. The appeal of solitude to be savored is still in mountain pastures and sloping hills.

The Snake River was eyed for large-scale irrigation. The tall sagebrush was an indicator of rich soil to farmers and ranchers. From the early 1880's to present day, the construction and management of canals has often been as turbulent as the mother river herself. Canal

Westside Mutual Canal Company

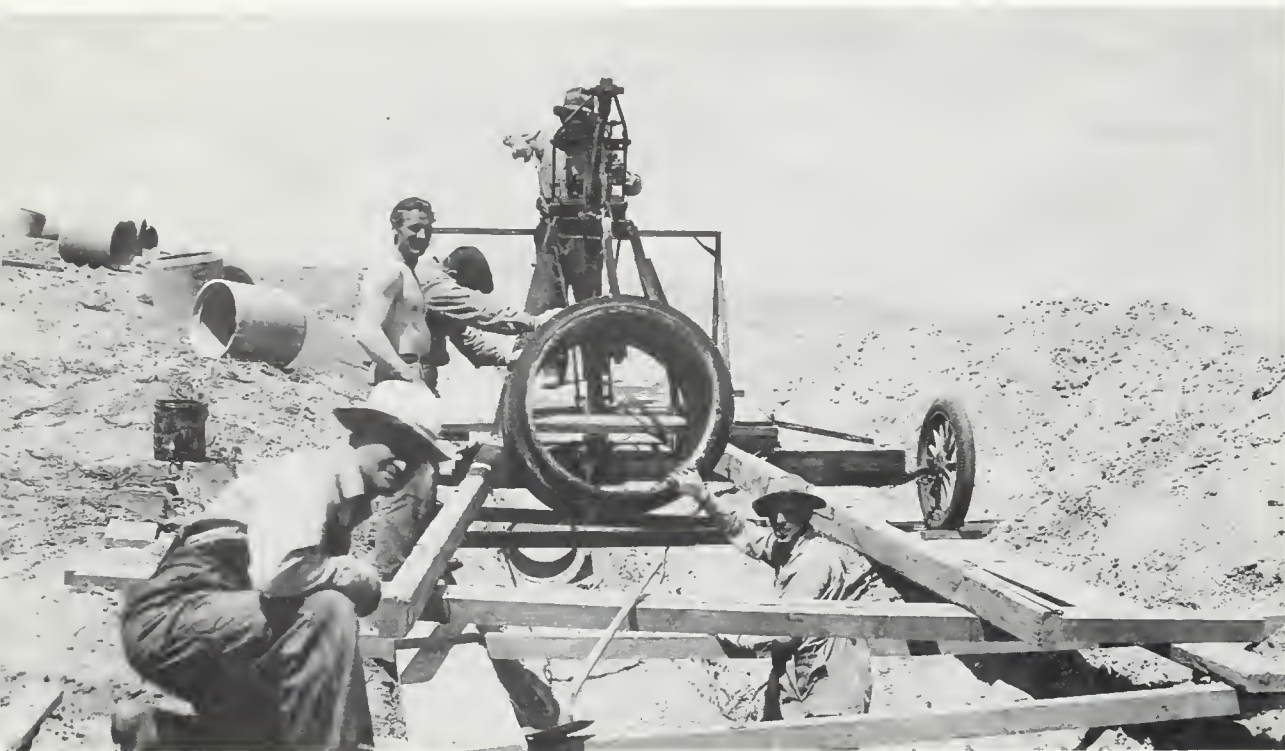
Planning for Westside Mutual Canal Company started in 1940. The Farrell L. Hansen family purchased the land known now as Hansen Farms from Victor Austin and George Brunt. Until 1940-1941, this land at the end of the Osgood Project, was owned by the Idaho Sugar Company. Water was received from the Great Western Canal, but when the wooden pipeline gave way, a new pipe had to be planned for. The Snarr property adjoining Hansen Farms

was in sagebrush and used for grazing sheep periodically in spring and summer.

Together the Hansens and Snarrs planned to form the Westside Mutual Canal Company for the purchase of water from the Northern Canal Company. The Westside Mutual would purchase two inches of water — giving one inch to the New Sweden Irrigation Canal Company and one inch to itself.

A headgate was installed leading out

of the Great Western Canal. A trench reinforced with pipeline made with thirty inch cement pipe was dug to the north side of Snarr Road. This pipeline traveled uphill for a little over one half mile to an outlet having four adjustable gates. Water could then be measured out according to shares for each interested landowner. This supplied water for 1200 acres with the Snarrs and Hansens receiving equal shares. (Photos and information from Wylie Snarr)





Present day irrigation shows water cascading through a canal north of Idaho Falls. The water flows over a ramped broad crested weir, which provides up-to-date diversion information. (Photo by Robert Bower)



A hot-air balloon is silhouetted against a summer sky — a contrast of seeming balloon stillness and cloud turbulence. (Photo by Robert Bower)

building, at first an individual or family effort, became a community effort as the inhabited area grew. Suitable headings for the canals had to be found. Early pioneers took into account sufficient water fall, natural washes and natural channels as well as those places predicting weak spots or intrinsic failure. Once a route had been marked, a furrow was plowed and roots were chopped off. After the plows, came the slipscrapers. Blasting powder for rock removal was mostly unaffordable, so strong backs wielding picks, shovels and crowbars supplemented the plows and scrapers. The loads of rock and soil were dumped on the banks. Weak spots occurred when cut-outs had to be made in the too-steep banks for extra material to be scraped further back. Once the canal was dug, a headgate to regulate the water flow presented another challenge. With so many variables, it is not surprising that harrowing tales of struggles with washed-

out headgates, swept away canal banks, high water, runaway planks and logs, banks honeycombed with rodent tunnels, and sandbags and boulders that didn't hold are a large part of the irrigation saga. Practically every pioneer farmer and rancher worked on the building of the canals or their maintenance. Wages were three or four dollars a day for man and team, payable in company stock or assessment credit. A little scrip which could be traded for supplies was issued.

The canal systems branching from the Snake River now are an intricate network of feeders and laterals, headgates and dams. Conservation reservoirs collect the watersheds. The laws, written and unwritten, governing the water concern priority rights and purchases and rentals, the maintenance and improvement thereof. In the early days, irrigation leaders — whether at the clerical, construction or ditch-rider capacity —

were important and respected. To serve in the field of irrigation was then, and is now, a mark of distinction.

The bitter chill of winter, high mountain meltwaters of spring, the windy, dry, sunny days of summer dog-daying to the nippy season of autumn were the climate variables pioneers learned to work and live with. In their hardy efforts to tame the land and river, settlers gave prime consideration to the weather.

The wind, carrier of dust, sand, seed and whatever else it can lift, blows and breezes often. Early day diary and journal excerpts state emphatically that

wind has been in Bonneville County from the very beginning. Present day prevailing wind direction is from the southwest. There are funnel clouds and on very rare occasions tornado touch-downs (three recorded in Idaho Falls). Air pollution is rare — when it does happen, it mostly involves trapped smoke during a temperature inversion. The average humidity is 30%. Temperatures range between extremes: 101 to -40, with 57 and 31.3 being the average over yearly tabulations. Annual precipitation averages 8.97 inches and average relative humidity is 39%. There have been extremely cold winters within the last hundred years with deep snows and extreme wind chill factors. And when the pendulum swings, high heat and drought have parched and cracked the county's face. Usually the climate norm calls for clear, clean air, light breezes, and a dry, sunny atmosphere. Warm summer days, cool summer nights and sunny winter days with now and ice for recreation keep most residents cabin-fever free. Spring and autumn are seasons of short duration, but are breathtaking in their fresh colors and brilliant hues.

Explorers and map-makers entered Bonneville County in the early 1800's. On their heels were trappers, gold-seekers and fur hunters. The fur trade era was a lusty one. A well-traveled trapper trail led from Pine Creek Pass to Fall Creek, up that stream and over the hills to Gray's Lake, now a wildlife refuge. Beside Gray's Lake rises Mount Caribou. Gold Rush days in the 1870's and 1880's brought hundreds of prospectors, heated with gold fever, to the mines of Caribou City and Keenan City. At first, goldmining was very profitable. Amounts recovered dwindled in later years. Gold had the glitter, but there were other mineral deposits to be developed. Coaly shale, phosphatic shale, oil, obsidian and travertine desposits await to be or are being commercially developed. Hot springs with their sulphorous odor and reputed medicinal properties are in the area.

Once the Eagle Rock Ferry and Eagle Rock Toll Bridge were opened and operating in the mid 1860's, some people began to stay, not just pass through. In 1866 Eagle Rock had a postmaster, Robert Anderson. Banking, livery, hotel

accommodations and trading post services were an actuality. Homesteaders, farmers and pioneers, hoping to establish themselves in businesses and professions, arrived. Many of the homeseekers were Mormons from Utah who brought with them second and third generation frontier skills. From the Midwest came thrifty Swedish farmers. Other land-hungry families came from the East, and some directly from Europe. They traveled with hopes, dreams and whatever material goods they had to the area surrounding the river on the sagebrush plain. With the first homesteaders, the arrival sometimes preceded the filing. All the land acquired by the earliest arrivals was government land, then subject to be filed upon. There were three kinds

of filings permitted — Homestead Entry (HE), which cost \$16.00 for 160 acres, used by the majority of the settlers; Timber Culture Entry (TC) which required that a certain quantity of designated kinds of trees be planted and cultivated for eight years; and Desert Entry (DE) for desert lands.

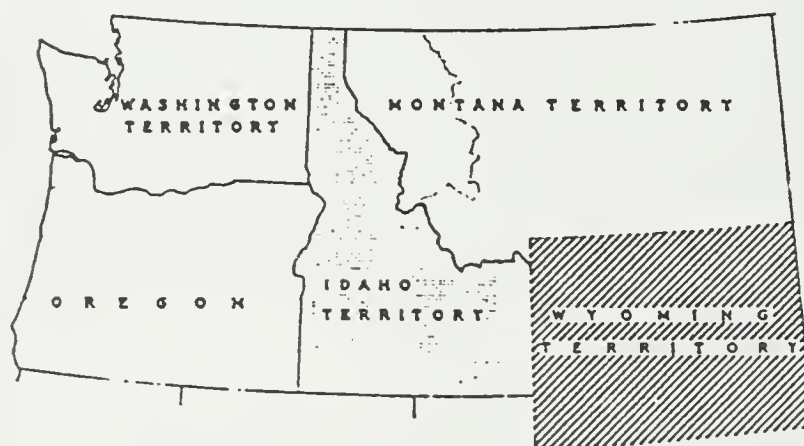
In the 1870's prospectors and miners were branching to the golden Caribou area. Cattlemen, stockraisers and ranchers came with more farmers to the Willow, Birch and Fall Creek areas. The newcomers were greeted by other hardy folks, thirsty soil and sagebrush, blowing sand and wind. But the promise inherent in the land, the beauty of the land — this "sleeping ocean" as Captain Bonneville called the Snake River Plain — held a



THE IDAHO TERRITORY

1863

The original Idaho Territory, established under President Lincoln in 1863—bigger than all of Texas—was the largest land area ever officially established and named by the United States Government.



Idaho received the boundaries which are still in use when Wyoming was established by Congress, July 26, 1868.

freedom pact for those who would vow to work in earnest for their keep. These pioneer years would see a change in the sagebrush plain. Smooth fertile farm and grazing land, hard-won, would replace sagebrushed arid land.

Pioneers tramped, pushed two-wheeled carts, drove wagon trains pulled by horses and oxen, rode horseback, joined immigrant caravans, tied into missionary-pioneering parties, and

trailed their freighted belongings to the Snake River Valley. They forded the Snake when possible in the warm months and walked on the ice in the winter. They ferried it, bridged it, and portaged their belongings around its rapids. With population and agricultural expansion came progress in transportation.

Railroad bridges and wider road bridges were built to span the river, which was traversed at first with a toll

fee, then without. Single lane, double lane and four lane bridges cross the Snake now, and the railroad bridges remain. Five major highways cross the county and a major airport gives access to the airways. Union Pacific serves the area.

The Snake River is no longer a barrier in Bonneville County.

Bridges

By Quincy Jensen

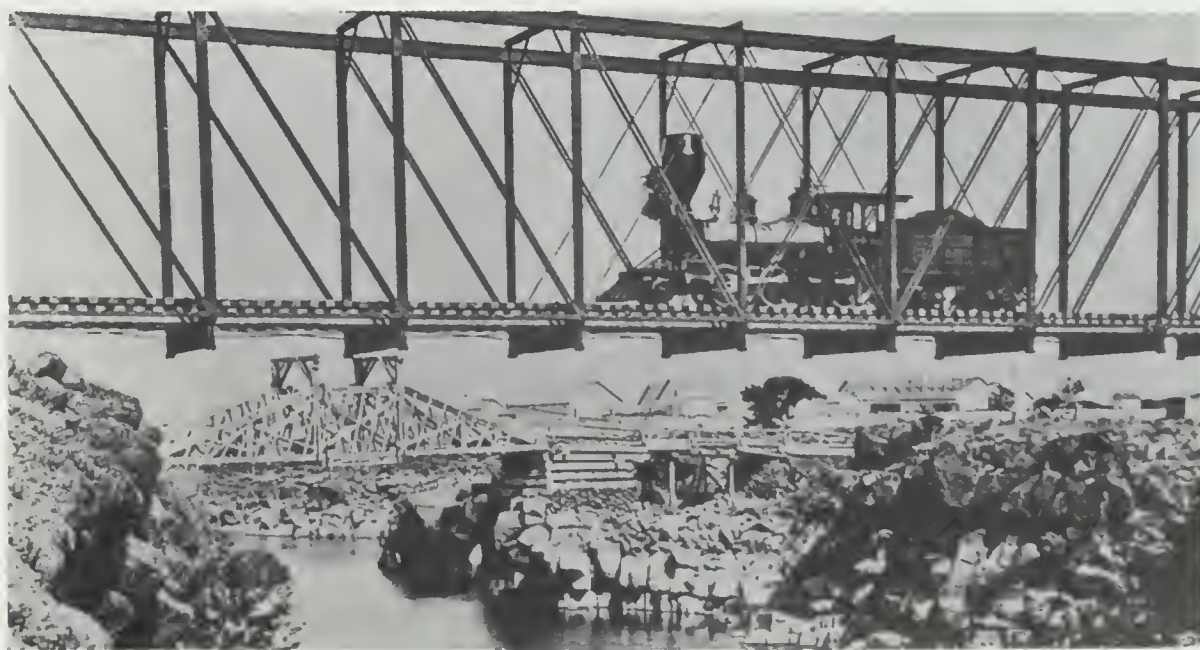
Crossing the Snake at Eagle Rock

There was a ford in the river nine miles upstream from Idaho Falls. It was called the Flathead Crossing and was just upstream from the Eagle Rock Ferry site. A ferry was in operation there in 1862 called the Barnard Ferry. In 1863 a ferry was put in service there just in time to accommodate the first company of wagons to come directly from Soda Springs (without going around Fort Hall). They crossed it on June 20. This ferry also had ten soldiers from Soda Springs to guard it and was known as the Hackman-Rickards Ferry.

Matt Taylor, a freighter, picked out a spot for a bridge at a place called Black Rock Canyon and formed the Oneida Bridge and Ferry Company to buy out the investors upstream. All of this was in preparation for a bridge to cross the Snake River.

The Eagle Rock Bridge was built in 1865-66 with timbers cut in Beaver Canyon on the Montana border and scrap iron from a Missouri River Steamboat and an old wagon. High water in June 1867 ruined the bridge but the timbers were saved. They had been spiked to anchoring cables. Using the frozen ice as a platform, men rebuilt the bridge that winter.

Top photo is an early picture of the 1865 Bridge. Middle photo shows the railroad crossing the Snake at Eagle Rock in 1879, downstream from Eagle Rock Bridge. Ten years earlier, the railroad had crossed the continent — joining at Promontory Point, Utah, with the driving of the Golden Spike. Bottom graphic: The Board of County Commissioners convened Thursday April 11, 1889 at Blackfoot, Bingham County's Seat.



Board convened at 1:30 pm
Application by Anderson Bros for License
for Bridge across Snake River
was denied

Official Bond of Sample Orr as
Justice of the Peace for Blackfoot
Precinct was approved

It was ordered that The Bridge
Known as Anderson's Bridge across
Snake River at Eagle Rock be declared
and recorded as a Public Highway

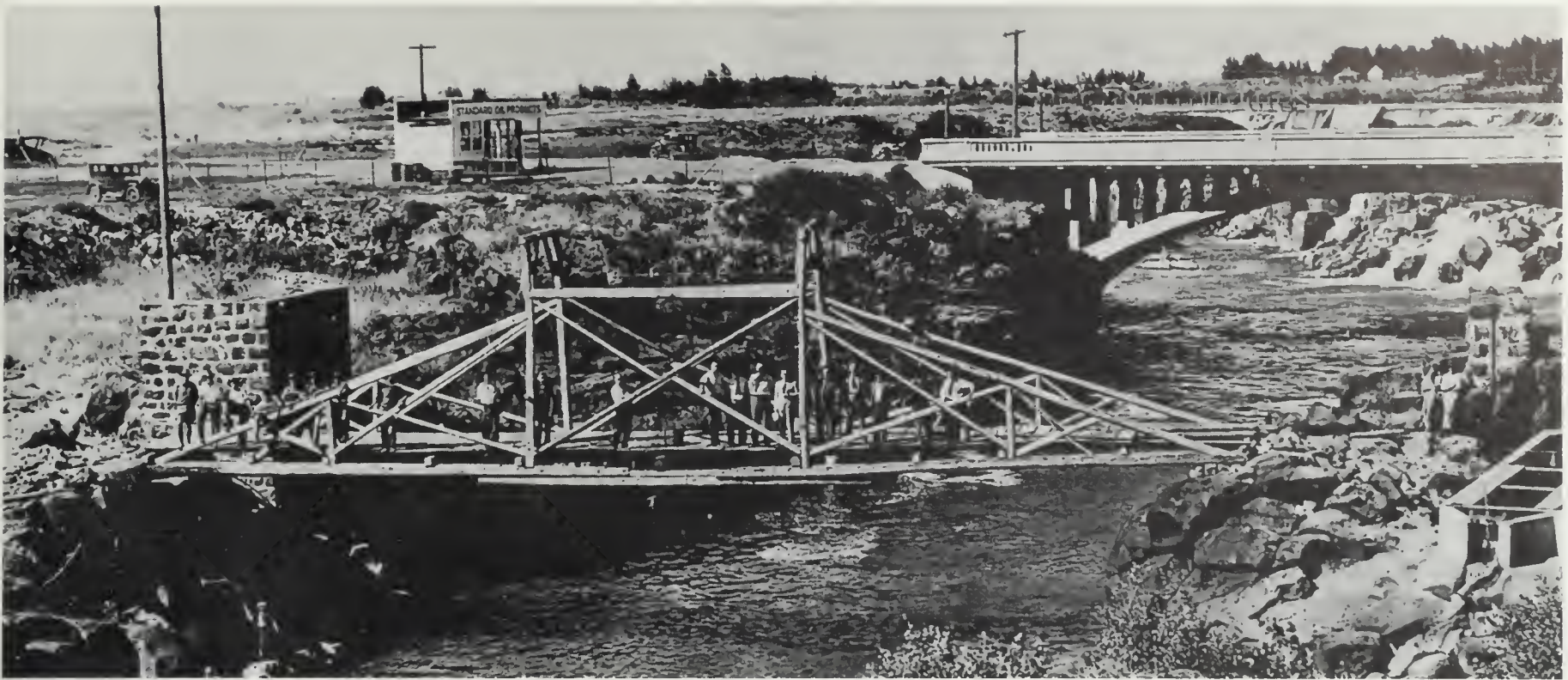


First steel bridge was built by W. W. Keefer in 1890. It rested on the abutments presently visible.



These photographs show two upstream views of the 1907 bridge that straightened Broadway.





This replica of Taylor Bridge was built on the original Taylor Bridge site. Note the concrete bridge in background (1928-1981).



The 1981 bridge was built one half at a time. Construction equipment is for the bulb turbine project. Below is the bridge in 1989.



A wide diversity of flora and fauna exists in the varied habitats of Bonneville County. Hikers, bikers, hunters, trappers, fishermen, artists, camera buffs, nature-lovers, ecologists, botanists, biologists, archeologists (a list of those interested goes on and on) can see and study the variety of biota within the county's borders.

Birds

Red-Tailed Hawk
 Eastern Kingbird
 American Goldfinch
 Ruffed Grouse
 Green-Tailed Towhee
 Golden Eagle
 Black-Billed Magpie
 Chipping Sparrow
 House Sparrow
 Vesper Sparrow
 Great Blue Heron
 American Widgeon
 Canvasback
 Gadwall
 Pintail
 Marsh Hawk
 Common Snipe
 Sandhill Crane
 Spotted Sandpiper
 Yellow-headed Blackbird
 Sage Grouse

Mammals

Black Bear
 Mule Deer
 Pronghorn Antelope
 Red Fox
 Long-Tailed Weasel
 Beldings Ground Squirrel
 Uinta Ground Squirrel
 Great Basin Pocket Mouse
 Northern Grasshopper Mouse
 Sagebrush Mouse
 Cinerous Shrew
 Ord's Kangaroo Rat
 Canada Lynx
 Heather Mouse
 Mink
 Coyote
 Moose
 Striped Skunk
 Townsend's Ground Squirrel
 Montana Meadow Mouse
 Western Jumping Mouse
 Yellow-bellied Marmot
 Muskrat

Reptiles

Mojave Black-collared Lizard
 Sagebrush Lizard
 Gopher Snake
 Western Rattlesnake
 Common Garter Snake
 Racer

Red-Shafted Flicker
 Mourning Dove
 Black-Capped Chickadee
 Brewer's Sparrow
 Starling
 Western Grebe
 Common Goldeneye
 Whistling Swan
 Red-Winged Blackbird
 Yellowbreasted Chat
 Rough-Legged Hawk
 Great Horned Owl
 Western Kingbird
 Pine Siskin
 Audubon's Warbler
 Western Tanager
 Sparrow Hawk
 Brewer's Blackbird
 Common Nighthawk
 Northern Shrike
 Western Meadowlark
 Snowy Egret

Mountain Cottontail
 Bobcat
 Elk
 Badger
 Black-tailed Jackrabbit
 Short-tailed Weasel
 Columbian Ground Squirrel
 Deer Mouse
 Long-Tailed Meadow Mouse
 Pennsylvania Meadow Mouse
 Western Harvest Mouse
 Vagrant Shrew
 Bushy Tailed Woodrat
 Beaver
 Dusky Shrew
 Water Shrew
 Pygmy Rabbit
 Cottontail Rabbit
 Least Chipmunk
 Gapper's Red-backed Mouse
 Richardson's Meadow Mouse
 Northern Pocket Gopher
 Golden Mantled Ground Squirrel
 Porcupine

Longnose Leopard Lizard
 Western Skink
 Western Terrestrial Garter
 Short-horned Lizard

Blue-Winged Teal
 Cinnamon Teal
 Green-Winged Teal
 Red-Breasted Merganser
 American Coot
 Long-billed Curlew
 Savannah Sparrow
 Yellow Warbler
 Chukar
 Killdeer
 Warbling Vireo
 Western Wood Peewee
 Swainson's Hawk
 Horned Lark
 Black Crowned Night Heron
 Canada Goose
 Mallard
 California Gull
 Song Sparrow
 Ring-necked Pheasant
 Long-Eared Owl

Though this domesticated swan had its picture taken at the Idaho Falls Zoo in Tautphaus Park where it lives, wild Whistling Swans nest in Bonneville County. (Photo by Robert Bower)



Flora (*familiar member of family*)

Maple, *Rocky Mountain Maple*
Amaranth, *Pigweed*
Pepperwort, *Clover-fern, same*
Evening Primrose, *same*
Birch, *Western Water Birch*
Pine, *Lodgepole, Limber, Douglas Fir*
Caper, *Yellow Bee Plant*
Pink, *Sandworts*
Goosefoot, *Tumbleweed, Russian Thistle*
Buckthorn, *Mountain Laurel*
Dogwood, *Red-stemmed Dogwood*
Stonecrop, *Wormleaf*
Cypress, *Juniper, Cedar*
Sedge, *Bulrush*
Grass, *Wheat, Rye, Timothy*
Currant, *Gooseberry, same*
Iris, *Blue Star*
Rush, *Baltic*
Lily, *Onion, Death-Camas*

Fish

Pacific Lamprey
Chinook Salmon
Cutthroat Trout
Yellowstone Cutthroat Trout
Brown Trout
Lake Trout
Utah Chub
Speckled Dace
Sockeye, *Kokanee Salmon*
Snake River Fine-Spotted Cutthroat
Bull Trout
Longnose Dace
Bridgelip Sucker
Mountain Sucker
Mottled Sculpin
Torrent Sculpin
Largescale Sucker

Water Plantain, *same*
Mallow, *White-stemmed Globemallow*
Four-o'clock, *Verbena*
Milkweed, *Showy Milkweed*
Broomrape, *same*
Cactus, *Prickly Pear*
Phlox, *Gilia, same*
Buckwheat, *Dock, Wild Begonia, same*
Buttercups, *Columbine, Larkspur, same*
Morning Glory, *Field Morning Glory*
Madder, *Bedstraw*
Mustard, *Alyssum, Watercress*
Saxifrage, *Star Flower*
Spurge, *same*
Cattails, *same*
Waterleaf, *Phacelia*
Verbena, *Bracted Verbena*
Mint, *Field, Horse*
Elm, *Russian, Chinese*
Blazing Star, *same*

Shorthead Sculpin
Coho Salmon
Mountain Whitefish
Westslope Cutthroat Trout
Rainbow Trout
Brock Trout
Arctic Grayling
Northern Squawfish
Redside Shiner
Golden Trout
Steelhead
Chiselmouth
Utah Sucker
Bluehead Sucker
Brown Bullhead
Paiute Sculpin
Yellow Perch

Sumac, *Skunkbush*
Dogbane, *same*
Orchid, *Spotted Coral-Root*
Borage, *Forget-me-not*
Plaintain, *same*
Honeysuckle, *Elderberry*
Fern, *Woodsie*
Sunflower, *Yarrow, Sage, Dandelion, same*
Greasewood, *White Sage*
Willow, *Quaking Aspen, Cottonwood*
Sandlewood, *False Toadflax*
Figwort, *Paintbrush, Monkey Flower, Perstemon*
Rose, *Serviceberry, Cinguefoil, Bitter Brush, Chokecherry, Raspberry*
Nightshade, *Coyote Tobacco, Bittersweet*
Parsley, *Biscuitroot, Desert Parsley*
Nettle, *Stinging Nettles*
Violet, *Yellow Violet*
Pea, *Lupine, Red and White Clover*

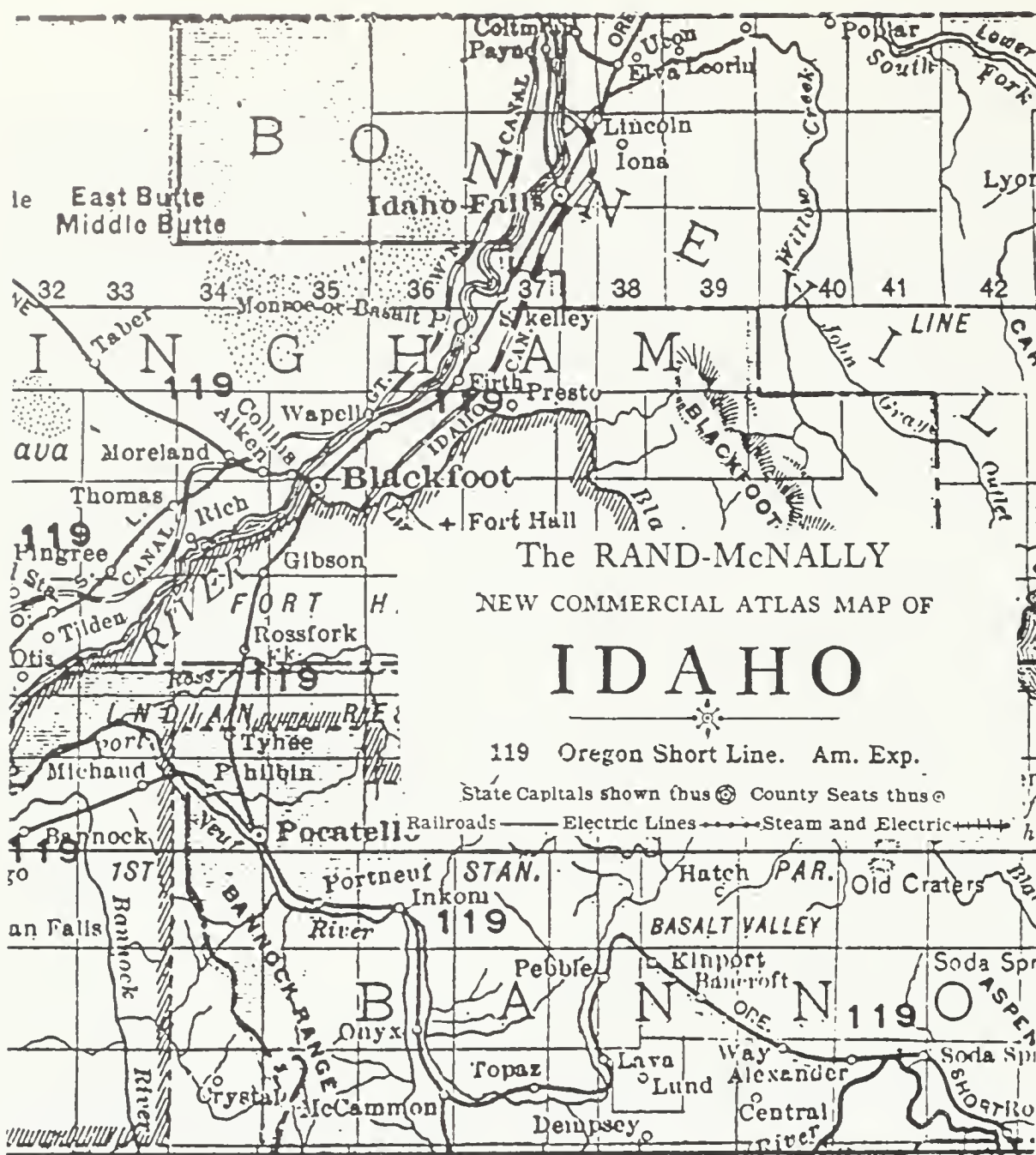
Black Crappie
Walleye

Amphibians

Tiger Salamander
Bell Toad (*Tailed Frog*)
Northern Leopard Frog
Striped Chorus Frog
Western Toad
Tailed Frog
Spotted Frog
Great Basin Spadefoot Toad

A gaggle of geese walks on ice near River Parkway. These feathered residents stay year-round. (Photo by Monte LaOrange)





A contrast of then and now, a truck and plow observed on East River road. (Photo by Robert Bower)

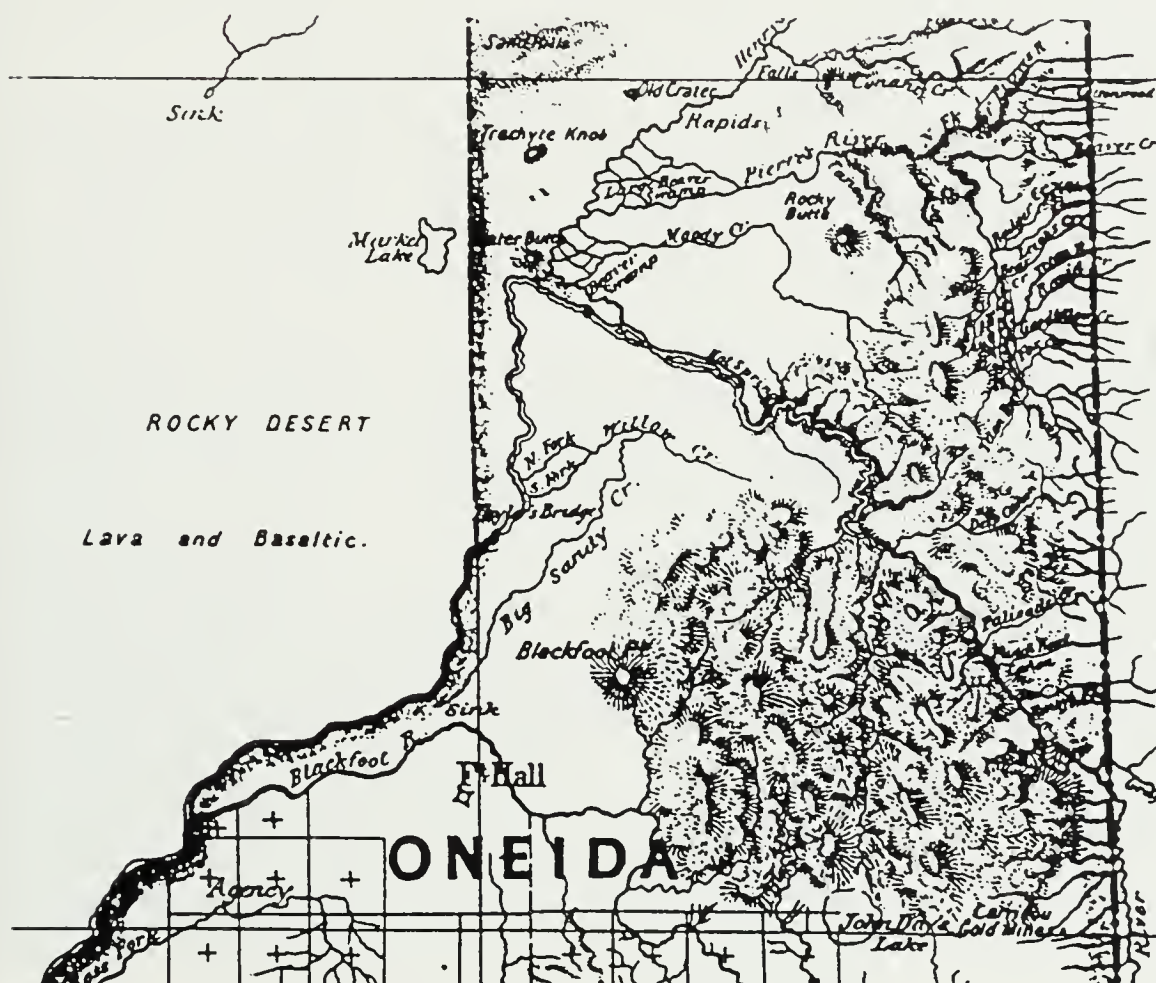


Utah and Northern's narrow gauge railroad reached Eagle Rock in March of 1879. In 1880, a large number of men were at work in preparation for the railroad repair shops to be built in Eagle Rock.

In 1887 Eagle Rock reeled when the wind of May 22, 1886, that had laid low the Round House of the Utah and Northern Railroad in Eagle Rock, combined with the rumblings of retaliation by railroad officials against the strictly union town of Eagle Rock. Plans were afoot for the railroad shops to be moved to Pocatello. Eagle Rock reeled, but it didn't collapse. The grain market was receiving hundred of bushels of wheat and oats daily. Potatoes played a part in agricultural expansion. Livestock development and new businesses — machinery, harnesses, hardware, tools and building materials — emerged as a solid economic base for the county area. And when the railroad shops were indeed moved to Pocatello, Eagle Rock and Bonneville County paused, but then survived heroically.

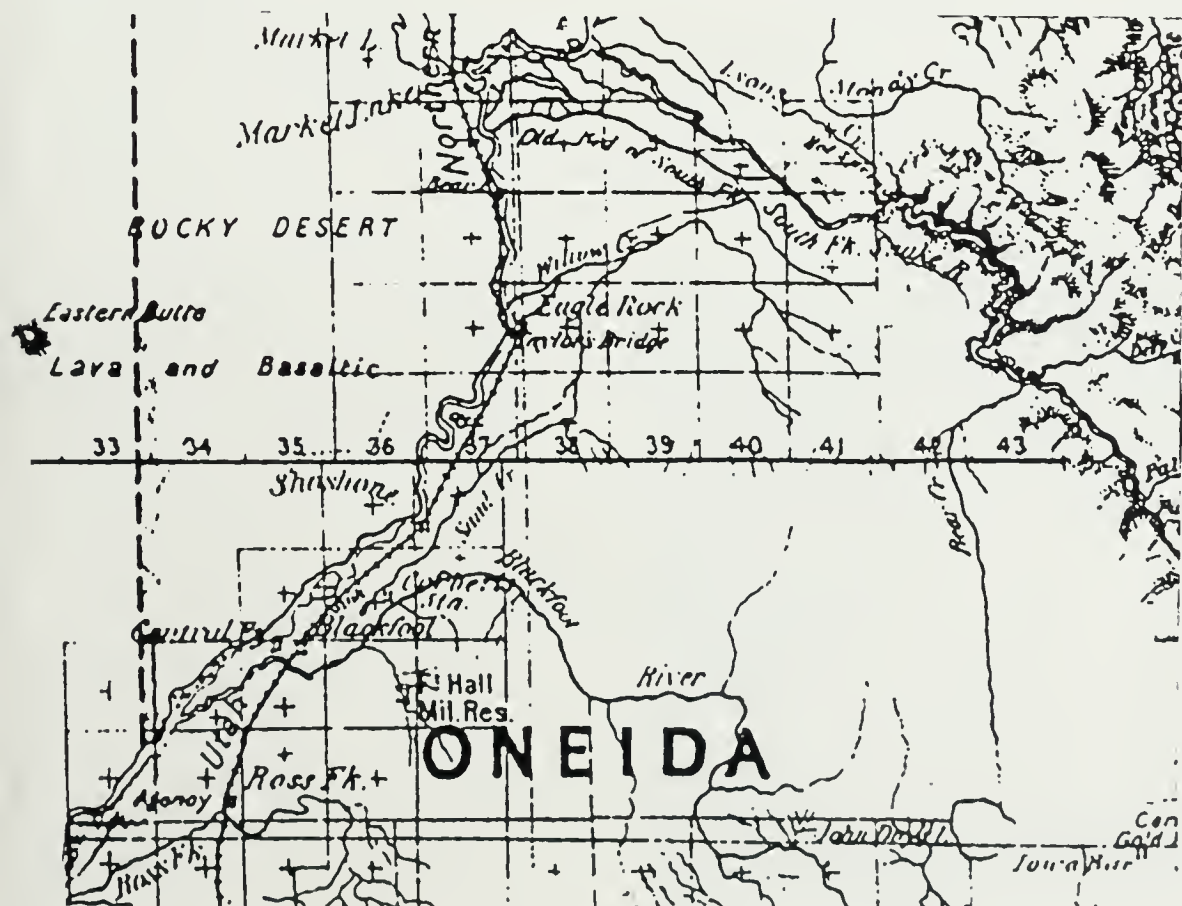
In the mid 1800's liveries, blacksmiths, eating houses, saloons and general stores were the beginnings of the county's economy. Banking was more informal than formal with surplus gold dust, gold certificates and handy vaults, i.e. a nail keg. The agricultural economy was strengthened when crops — garden and farm — and livestock became viable sources of income.

TERRITORY OF IDAHO



REFERENCES

- Surveyor General's Office
- U.S. Land Office
- + Townships Subdivided
- ☆ Capital of Territory
- County Seats
- Towns and Villages
- Boundary of Counties
- Rail Road Limits
- Indian Reservations
- Rail Roads Completed



REFERENCES

- Surveyor General's Office
- Land Office
- + Townships Subdivided
- County Seats
- Cities, Towns
- Boundary of Land Districts
- Rail Road Limits
- Boundary of Counties
- Indian Reservations



The economy now is a multi-mixture. Yet a common legacy we share with all parts of Idaho, is the dependence on natural resources for an economic base. Manufacturing and secondary manufacturing industries produce durable and nondurable goods. Forest, food processing, machinery and high technology manufacturing play important economic roles. Businesses produce products for Bonneville's natural resource industries (irrigation, farm, sawmilling, mining), chemical production and printing and publishing endeavors. Nonmanufacturing industries include mining, construction, transportation, communications and public utilities; wholesale and retail trade, finance, insurance and real estate; service, travel and tourism and government (primarily the INEL). Agricultural production with related agricultural services combine with manufacturing and nonmanufacturing industries to give Bonneville County a truly diversified economy. Major agricultural crops today are potatoes, barley, hay, wheat and alfalfa. Minor crops such as wildflowers for seed, seed peas, and corn for grain, seed and silage share the agricultural limelight.

Beef and milk cows, cattle and calves, hogs and pigs, sheep, lambs and chickens are raised throughout the region.

Two of Bonneville County's economic growth areas in 1936 are pictured here: communication and recreation. The former Post Register building shown here

still exists on A Street in Idaho Falls north of the Greyhound Bus Lines. The Paramount Theatre is the tall building with billboard lettering. (Photo by Roland Scott on file at Perk's) Cattle Dining (Photo by Robert Bower)





Carnegie Library picture taken from 1930 grain elevators to the west. The Library is now the Bonneville Museum. (Photo Post-Register file)

Nurturing for pioneers and their families extended beyond the economy and work. The sometimes earthy image of the area was softened by religion. Circuit riders served the religious needs in the beginning and missionaries of several denominational disciplines came to teach and preach. The Swedes, west of Eagle Rock, brought the Mission Church. Rebecca Mitchell, a Baptist missionary not limited by her religious fervor — a library, school and Women's Temperance Union are credited to her — spaded the first shovel of dirt in 1884 for a New England style Baptist Church. Latter-Day Saints (Mormons), mostly from Utah, known for their industriousness and strong religious beliefs held services in their homes, then built churches. Methodists, Catholics, Episcopalians

and Presbyterians held services and began planning churchhouses. As the communities grew, so too did a plentitude of theological sects.

Churches and schools were often the stimulus and impetus for the gathering and the governing of communities. Children needed education and parents wanted education for their children. In 1879 Miss Jennie Beam taught at the Buck School, which evolved into Public School #1 in Bonneville County. Schools, one and two roomed at first, sprang up in neighborhoods and communities from eastern Grand Valley to western Taylor and all points in between. By 1990, two school districts, #91 and #93, provide twenty-two elementary, four junior high and three senior high schools for Bonneville County. Oth-

er county schools include parochial units, child development centers, speech, visual and hearing centers, pre-schools and kindergartens. Eastern Idaho Technical College located in Idaho Falls, offers classes in the vocational areas of mechanics, office practices, dental technology, nuclear technology and subject areas in between. The BYU-Ricks Continuing Education Center, University of Idaho and Idaho State University satellites at University Place provide opportunities in post secondary education. Future cosmetologists, medical and dental assistants and technicians are trained at specialized schools and centers. Industrial, technical, trade, business and secretarial schools offer a wide range of possibilities in the education work-related field. Community education programs

offer courses to area residents. Education also takes place in the libraries scattered liberally up and down the valley in schools and separate facilities. One library in Idaho Falls has metamorphosed to a museum.

The Bonneville Museum officially opened at its present location in the old Idaho Falls Public Library building July 4, 1985. This building built in 1916 with the aid of an Andrew Carnegie Grant, remodeled to its present size in 1939-40, was added to the National Register of Historical Places in 1983. The main floor houses historical and nuclear energy exhibits in natural settings; the mezzanine is used for special displays and traveling exhibits and houses a valuable American Indian collection; the lower level is a replica of Eagle Rock U.S.A. with shops and businesses from the late 1800's.

People, leabor, religion, education, culture and recreation were the threads woven to make the fabric of early com-

When building South Bonneville Junior High in Ammon, workmen placed 110 foot truss joist beams in the structure.

munities.

Culture and recreation were often blended to the delight of participants and audience, young and old. Musical performances from local soloists, ensembles and bands brightened get-togethers. There were drama and theatre productions on stages (stage was often a loosely-interpreted structure) of grass, board or swept earth. Dances — where young and old glided and twirled until late at night and sometimes stayed through the night if the wagonride home was too great a distance — are still remembered by children of the early 1900's. These dances, out of doors on soft summer nights and in lighted shelters on chill autumn and icy winter nights were gatherings for families and communities. Painting, whittling, carving, sculpting and writing offered release for the creative spirit when work was done. Sometimes the creative entrepreneurs captured the muses to make their art their livelihood.

(Photos of school and horse by Robert Bower)



Fire lights and livens the welded steel horse of artist and sculptor Marilyn Hansen.



There were organized sports — the favorite being baseball. Teams of players would travel the region in search of friendly, worthy competition. Athletic prowess received recognition then as it does now. Games were often heated and always in earnest. Fans on the sidelines responded in suit.

Colorful parades marched through streets flanked on both sides by excited, happy onlookers. Fascination and entrancement filled the air. In the big parades, elephants strode the streets of Idaho Falls. Circuses and rodeos, where crowds watched daredevil performances and skilled competition, were then and are now, traditions of summer and autumn.

Quilting bees, weaving, soapmaking, fruit preserving and picnics brought neighbors together. Picnics with lemonade and ice cream on grassy knolls, picnics with basket lunches at baseball games, picnics with warm summer rain showers in the lava rocks — all kinds of picnics were celebrated. From hikes in early spring to hayrides in autumn and sleighrides in winter, Bonneville County is still a picnicing county. Backyards, parks, riverbanks, lava rocks, meadows, lakesides, reservoir shores, mountains, valleys, stationed tables and benches are the impromptu and designated perfect picnic spots. The motivations for picnics — recreation, holidays, business, culture, religion, education and family reunions — will keep picnics the thriving festivities they are for years to come.



Birds warming up. (Photo by Robert Bower)



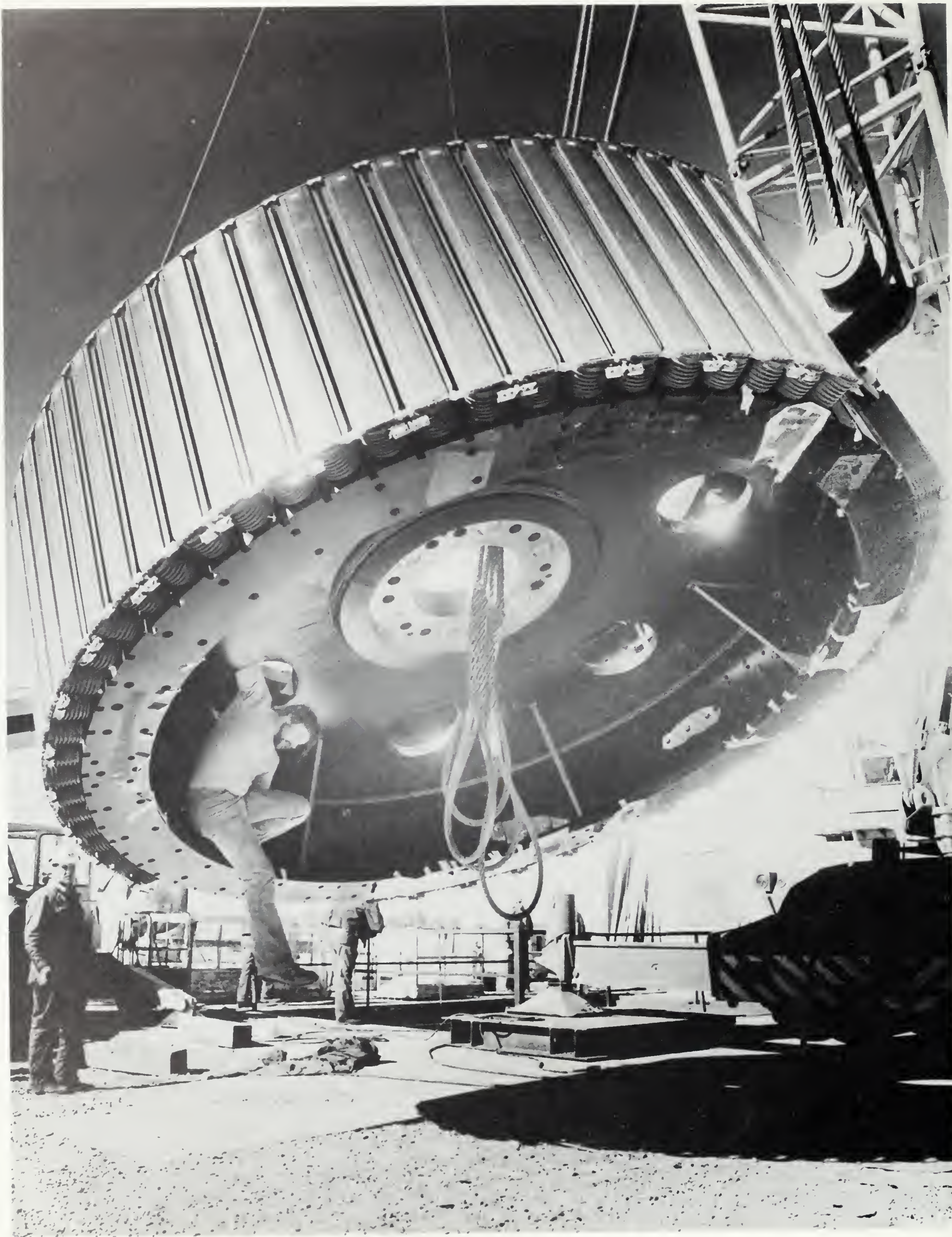


Spectacular Fourth of July fireworks display shoots from Keefer's Island skyward. "Ohs" and "Ahs" sound from the riverbank, front porch and park lawn audiences.

Joe Moser is ice fishing. When the bobber pulls down, he might have a fish. (Photos of fireworks and ice fishing by Robert Bower)

A picnic of sorts with Mr. and Mrs. Frank Bybee. This old photograph was found by members of the Post-Register staff.







The 1982 construction of hydro-electric plant in Bonneville County. Pictured is part of the bulb turbine. (Photo by Robert Bower)

Idaho was admitted to the union as the forty-third state on July 3, 1890.

In the 1890's, "boomers" emerged. To "boom a town", where development companies would buy up available property, advertise and promote it (often, with a rhetoric about success that wasn't quite honest), was a common practice of the times. By the end of the eighteenth century, Idaho Falls (Eagle Rock up to 1891), with its branch railroad line to upriver towns and its ever-widening telephone service, became the business center of the upper valley.

Congressional legislation providing for state assistance to canal projects for which federal lands were allocated (1894) and providing for federal assistance for local irrigation projects (1902) benefitted farmers, ranchers, railroads and agricultural businesses. President Theodore Roosevelt and his program of reforms to give the farmer and the work-

Grain combines move through fields of ripened wheat. The thick full heads promise a good yield. (Photo by Robert Bower)

ing man "a square deal", to control the railroads, to conserve the nation's wealth and plan for its use were in tune with the peoples' visions and imaginations. Self-reliance and cooperation moved people in Bonneville County beyond subsistence farming to farming as a business.

As communities grew, town fathers saw the needs for energy and gave attention to civic concerns. Irrigation — canals and ditches hard won with pick and shovel, plows and slip scrapers — expanded into the water business of hydro-electric power. In 1903, the series of rapids at Idaho Falls was turned into the "falls" of Idaho Falls. A cement retaining wall diverted part of the Snake River to the eastern high water channel and thus backed up the river to create enough water pressure to turn hydro-electric turbines in a generating plant. The end product was electricity for city residents. There are now five hydro-elec-

tric generators in Bonneville County. Underground water tapped by deep wells advanced irrigation.

Crops on the plain, foothills and desert now green with pump irrigation. Palisades and Ririe Reservoirs store water for irrigation, power and recreation. Soil and water conservation, flood control measures in watersheds, irrigation water management and dryland erosion control are the modern concerns of farmers and ranchers. The desire to keep the rich topsoil, to control agricultural water pollution and to preserve this land for future generations are the stated practices and projects for Bonneville County.

In 1990 energy for Bonneville County is provided by Bonneville Power Administration, Utah Power & Light, and Intermountain Gas Company. The Idaho National Engineering Laboratory (INEL) to the west of Bonneville County (a small portion is in the county) on 890 square miles, with its headquarters in Idaho Falls, is the setting for some of the most advanced energy research in the world. Established in 1949 as the

National Reactor Testing Station, it contains the largest concentration of nuclear reactors in the world. Over the years, 52 reactors, most of them one-of-a-kind facilities, have been built. Thirteen of them remain operable, the others have been phased out or placed on standby on completion of their research missions. The INEL has been a pioneer in science. In 1951, the INEL was the first to use nuclear fission to produce electricity. In the 1950's, the first pressurized water reactor and boiling water reactor prototypes were built and operated at the INEL. BORAX-III, a boiling water reactor, was the first to light an American

Loss of Fluid Test Facility (LOFT) at Test Area North, INEL — operating contractors are INC, ANC, E.G. & .G. Idaho. The LOFT reactor was inactivated in 1986, following completion of the

city — Arco, Idaho in 1955. The INEL is now a leading center for nuclear safety research, defense programs, nuclear waste technology and development of advanced energy concepts. Research and engineering for non-nuclear programs take place here also. Fusion energy, geothermal energy, low-head hydropower, industrial energy conservation, environmental research; strategic and critical materials, computer code development, materials testing and advanced instrumentation development are the many fields in which work is conducted today at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory.

LP-FP-2 experiment, the most significant severe fuel damage test ever conducted in a nuclear reactor. Experiments at LOFT have simulated small-, medium- and large-break pressurized water loss-

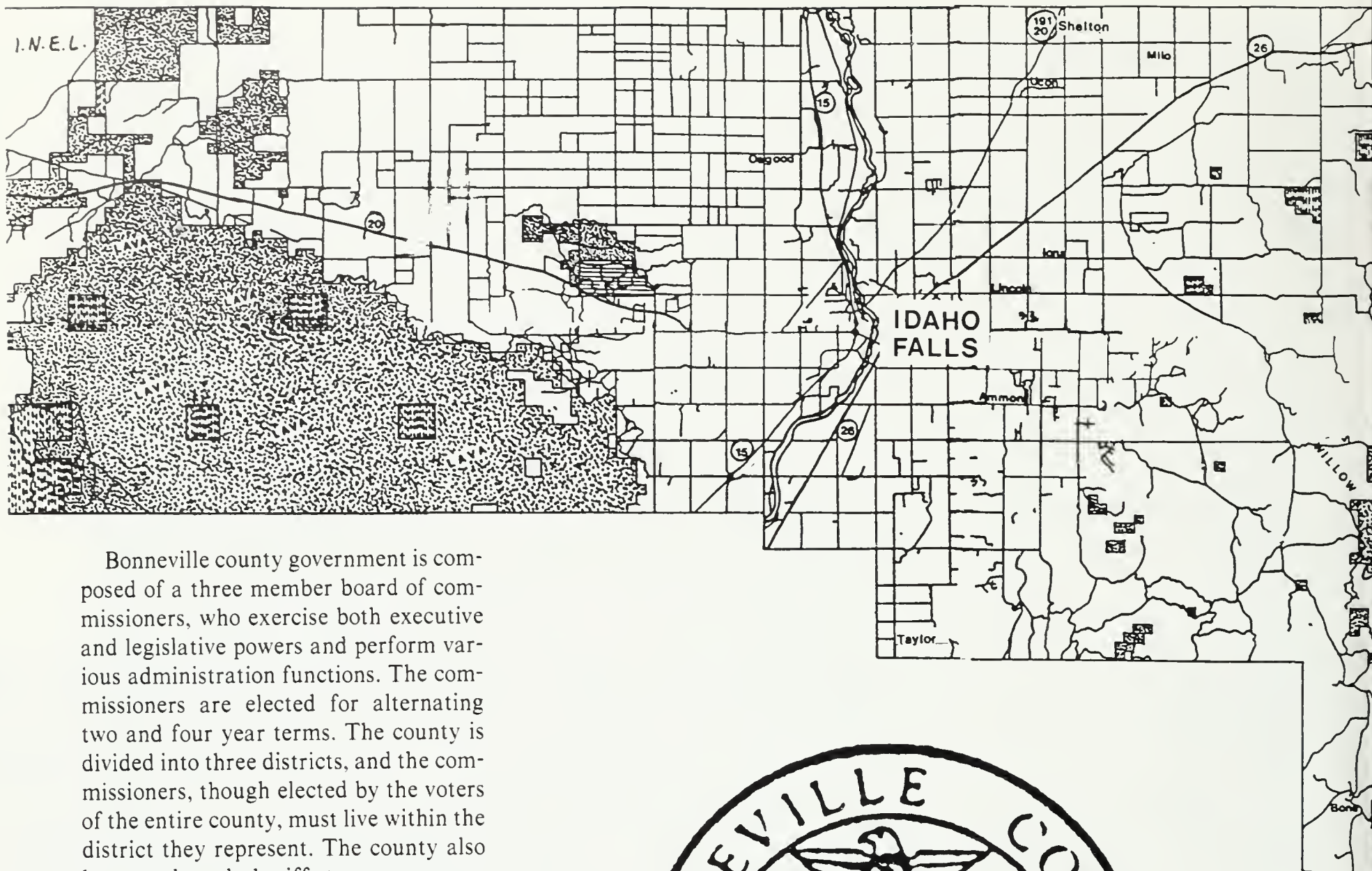
In early pioneering days, community needs were served by district church, school, cemetery and irrigation groups. When in 1911, Bonneville County was created with Idaho Falls as the County Seat, a new governing body came into being. Bonneville had previously been a part of Bingham County with Blackfoot as the county seat.

Children, eager for discovery and filled with energy, run and play in the dunes at Sandy Downs. There are holes to be dug and castles to be built, and the possibilities in between are endless. (Photo by Robert Bower)

of-coolant accidents (LOCAs) sometimes complicated with other events such as "loss of offsite power". (Photo courtesy of Stu Milam)







Bonneville county government is composed of a three member board of commissioners, who exercise both executive and legislative powers and perform various administration functions. The commissioners are elected for alternating two and four year terms. The county is divided into three districts, and the commissioners, though elected by the voters of the entire county, must live within the district they represent. The county also has an elected sheriff, treasurer, coroner, prosecuting attorney and clerk, who is also ex officio auditor as well as recorder and clerk of the district court. These county officials are elected for four year terms. Any Bonneville county resident may vote at age 18 years or older. The legal age is 21, however.

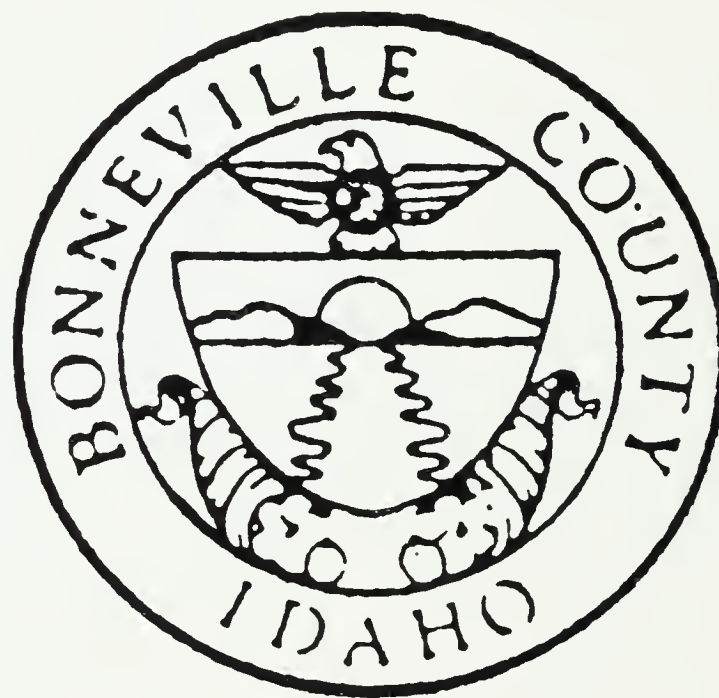
Bonneville County serves as an administrative arm of state government by providing law enforcement, welfare and road maintenance. It provides urban services such as planning and zoning, water supply and sewage disposal.

Incorporated cities in Bonneville County operate under a mayor-council form of government. Other local units of government within the county are school districts, road districts, cemetery districts, fire protection districts and irrigation districts. All of these units have limited taxing powers but are required to certify their requirements to the county commissioners who must then include these needs in the collections made by county tax collectors.

There is a good quality of life in Bonneville County, and the numbers of

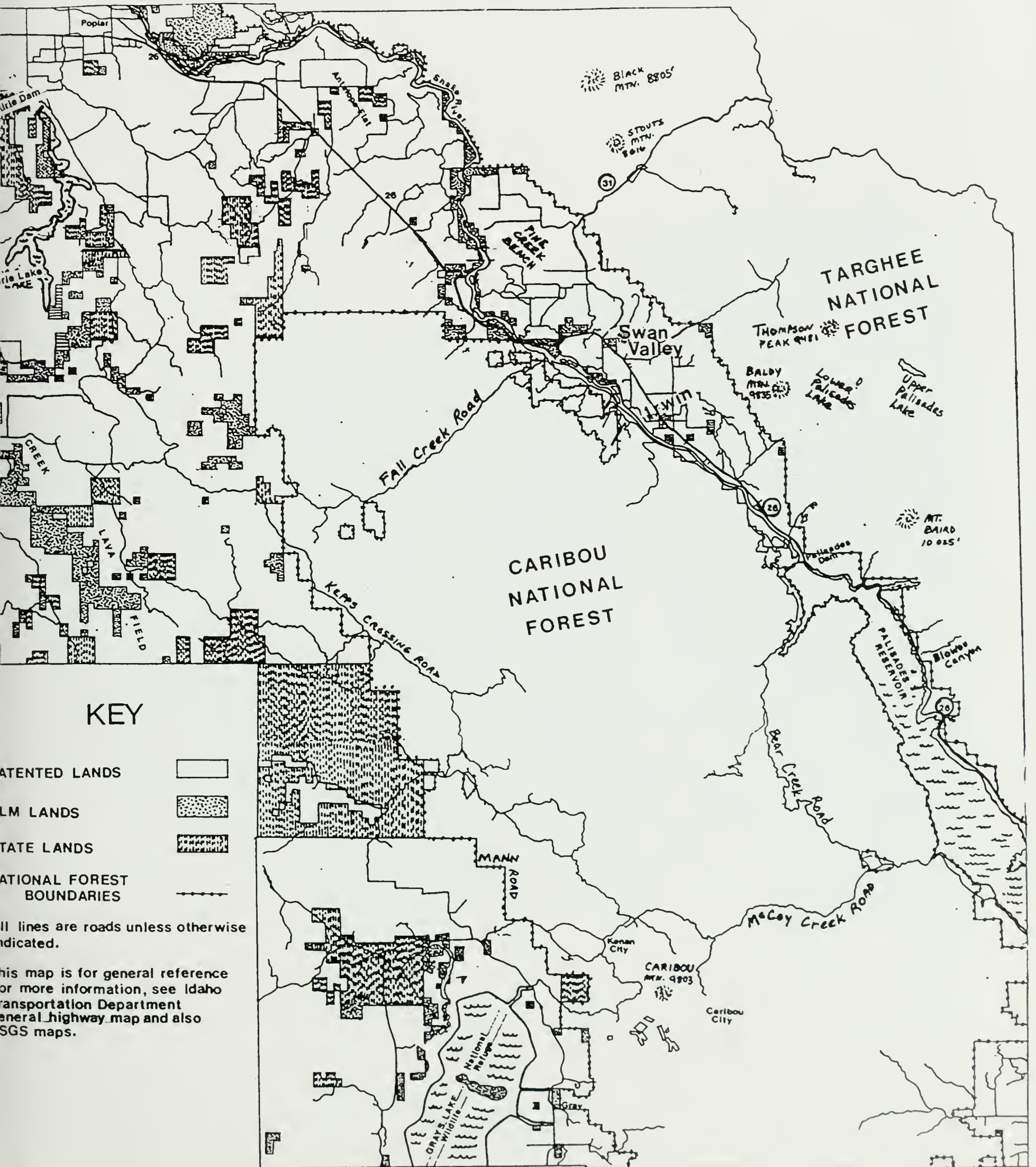
people participating in it are growing. For the Centennial year 1990, the population estimate for Bonneville County is projected at 79,200; 47,000 of this total will be concentrated in the Idaho Falls area. Varied population patterns from urban to rural to solitary grid and dot the county. And the towns of the people, past and present, are accessible by road or path. The land and the water are waiting to be rediscovered by citizens of and visitors to Bonneville County. Each hamlet, burg, town, community and city

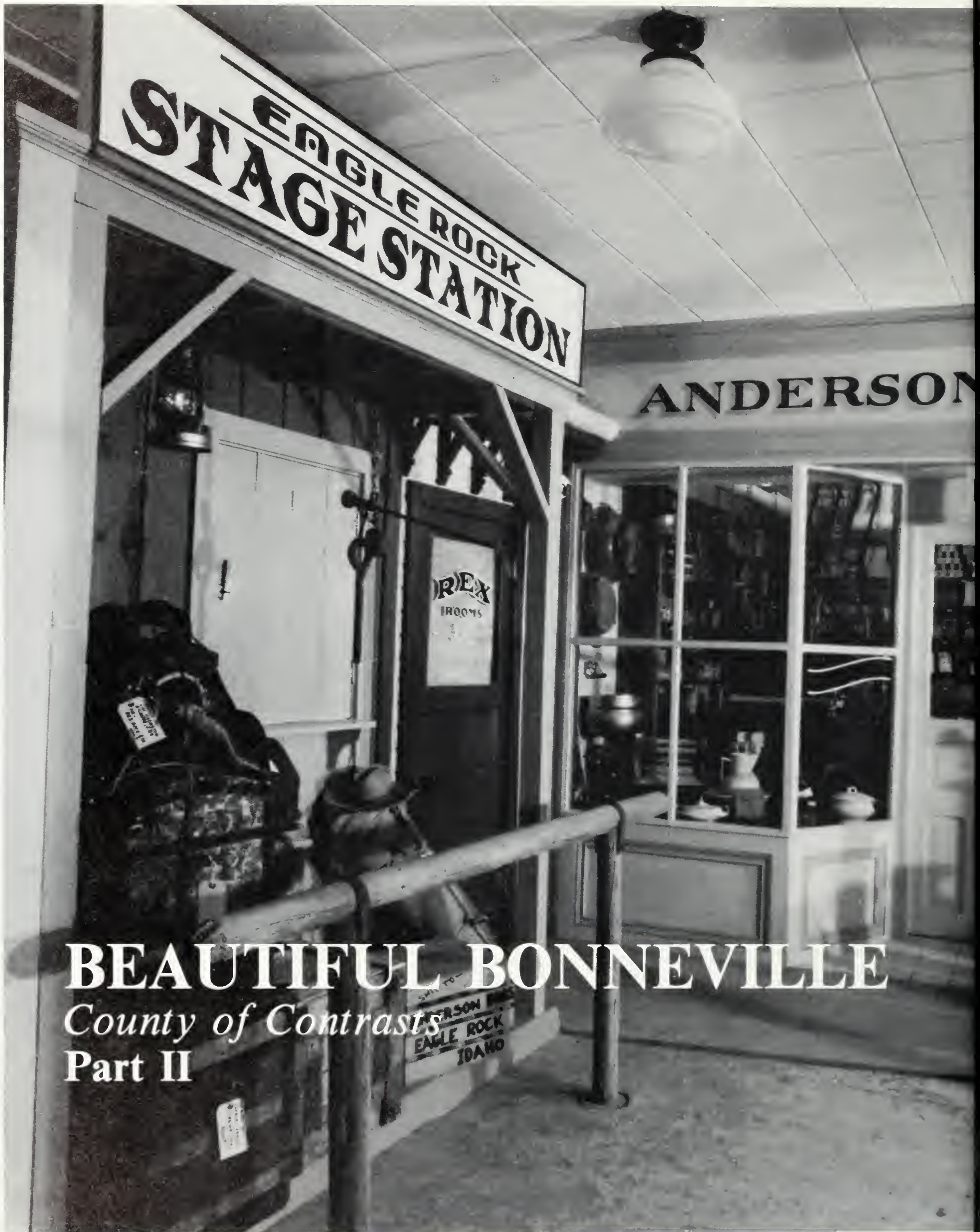
has its own colorful centennial story to tell: lasting legacies in word and picture of the land, the water and the people.



Bonneville County Idaho Seal

Within the circle of the Seal are symbols and scenes cherished in beautiful Bonneville: the horns of plenty, fertile valleys, the surrounding hills, the sun coming up over the mountain, running streams and the eagle, our national emblem.





BEAUTIFUL BONNEVILLE

County of Contrasts
Part II



WESTERN BONNEVILLE COUNTY

Alice Horton
Editor and Writer

Joe Marker - Idaho Falls
Edith Lovell - Shelton

In the beginnings of western Bonneville County, early and middle 1800's, places were often named more than once. Edith Lovell, historian and author of *Captain Bonneville's County*, recorded these places in her book. Idaho Falls was Taylor's Bridge and Eagle Rock. Eagle Rock was also a ferry nine miles up river from Eagle Rock town. Ucon was Willow Creek — so was the Shelton-Milo area, with Hard Scrabble in between. Poplar was Birch Creek; Coltman was Poverty Flat. Iona, Ammon, and Lincoln were Sand Creek; Milo was Leorin; Shelton was Enterprise and Prospect. St. Leon was Jarnigan. Ammon foothill was Hog Holler and Pleasant View. The creek draining Gray's Lake was Gray's Creek now called Willow Creek. Fall Creek was Muddy Creek and Sulphur Creek.

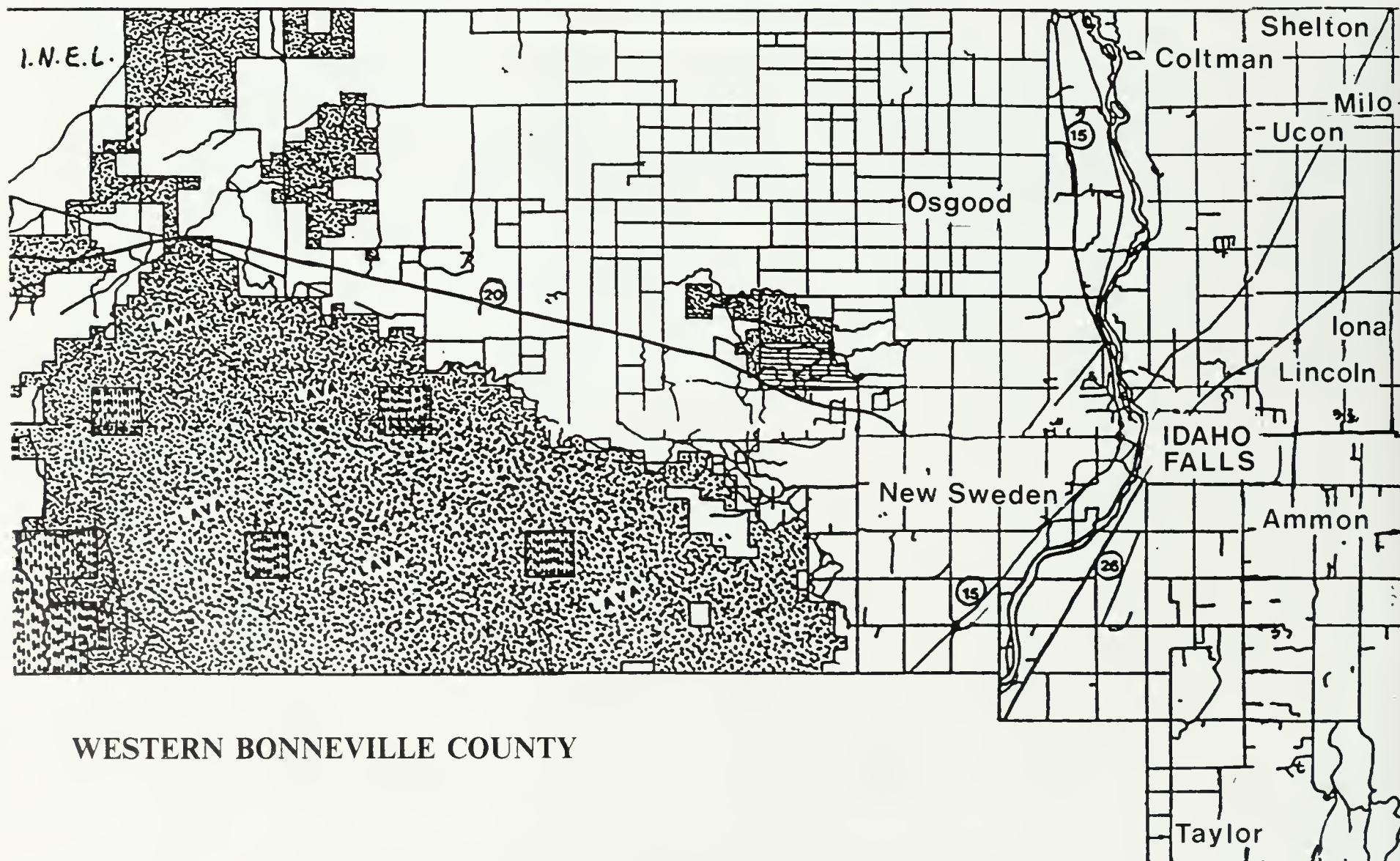
The Snake River had a multitude of names: Pohogwa, "river of the sagebrush plain", Saptin, Shahaptin, Sho-sho-nepah, Piupa, to the Indians; the Lewis River to Lewis and Clark. To Hunt's Astorians the South Fork was Mad River, the Accursed Mad River — La Maudite Riviere Enragee. The South Fork was also the Lewis Fork. The early British called the Snake River the Great South Branch of the Columbia. (They were perhaps more enchanted with the Snake than were Hunt's Astorians!)

Eagle Rock U.S.A., built in the lower level of the Bonneville Museum, is a replica of the 19th century town of Eagle Rock. (Photo by Quincy Jensen)

Taylor and Vicinity

In 1886 the small community of Taylor, first known as Taylor Ward, was named in honor of the Mormon Church apostle John W. Taylor. One year before, in the spring of 1885, Abiah Wadsworth Jr., John, Edward, and William Priest, Smith Johnson and Edward Wadsworth (Edwin would come in 1886) came to Taylor. Each built a log house on his homestead of 160 acres. They had to fit the logs, there was no mortar to caulk them. Antelope, deer and elk grazed on the lush grass (good grazing for livestock later on). It is recorded in **Bingham County Idaho** that the first five years spent in Taylor by these men and their families were extremely hard. They hauled water in barrels until ditches were dug.

Pictured is one of the three L.D.S. churches built in Taylor — none remain. (Photo courtesy of Hortense Hanson)



WESTERN BONNEVILLE COUNTY



In the central vicinity of Taylor Park, three L.D.S. churches, four schools and several stores (the most recent one is still in operation) have been built to serve Taylor. (Photo by Alice Horton)

In 1890 Abiah Wadsworth Jr. and others built a canal with a combine-ditcher that took twelve head of horses to pull it. Pictured is a small scale ditch digging in early Taylor. (Photo courtesy of Bernice Mathews)



Interestingly, of these early pioneers, Edwin A. Wadsworth, a locomotive engineer, was one of the first men to engineer a train across the Snake River at Idaho Falls; William Priest, a coal miner, was a discoverer and developer of coal mining in Rock Springs, Wyoming; and Nelson Arave ran a sawmill on Sand Creek.

The early pioneering families welcomed later pioneering families to Taylor and the land become productive for farming and stockraising. These Mormon families kept their deep religious faith active while serving their community in business, agriculture, education and politics (predominantly Republican).

Taylor today is still agricultural in flavor. Surrounding the community are farms and ranches on the flat Snake River Plain and the southeastern foothills.

The fourth Taylor School, in actuality the third two-room school with one room additions on each end, housed school children into the 1970's. In its final year, only fifth graders from the Taylor and Shelley areas attended the four room structure.



Pictured is the third Taylor School. It was a two room building with four grades being taught in each room. Note the 1905 construction date on the school plaque. (Photo courtesy of Lila Barnett)

Families, neighbors, dogs and horses, old and young were in the spud fields when harvest was on. If size is an indication of quality, these Taylor folks had a good crop. (Photo courtesy of Bernice Mathews)





The present Taylor Store is a stopping place for residents, bikers, fishermen, farmers on their way to croplands, picnickers, etc. (Photo by Alice Horton)

Old photographs of the Arave store in Taylor at flood time and snow time. (photos courtesy of Bernice Mathews)



Doyle F. Arave in his brief history of Taylor Cemetery, writes that it was started in April, 1887. It began as a five acre piece of sagebrush land. Three pathways were built up with coal from the old Taylor School, so that people would have a dry place to walk. Eventually hydrants for watering the lawn, additional land and headstones enhanced the peaceful setting. (Top photo Robert Bower, bottom photo by Alice Horton)



Runner east of Sand Creek Golf Course, 1980 (Photo by Robert Bower)

Golf at Sand Creek New Years Day 1981 (Photo by Quincy Jensen)





The Trac at Sandy Downs opening night 1989 (Photo by Randy Hayes)

To the east of Taylor, Rainbow Ranch with fields of potatoes, alfalfa and red wheat, boasts a landing field. Aviation has been a part of this ranching operation since 1938 for both pleasure and work. Partially purchased from Matt Taylor in 1903 by Rasmus Hoff, the farm is still worked by the family.

M. Richard Hoff making "pass" on a field at rainbow Ranch. (Photo by Robert Bower)

Onita Hoff-Stoll received her license in 1948 and enjoyed flying for over twenty years. Her own airplane, purchased new in 1946, is still kept at Rainbow Ranch and occasionally flown. (Photo courtesy of Marilyn Hansen)



York

Karen Moir writes in her history of York School, that the York district, located between Idaho Falls and Taylor, was probably named after A.M. York, a land developer in the late 1800's. The first York School (located one mile west of the present school) held its first session in 1899. In the early 1900's there were very few records of students' grades or progress. Teachers taught what they felt was needed. And they taught from the textbooks available.

Pictured on page 69 are Adelia York and her pupils in the first York School, 1905. (Photo courtesy of Thelma Johnson)

Autumn ground fog covers pastures and fields north of Taylor off St. Clair Road. (Photo by Robert Bower)





Adelia York, her students (a wide range of ages—students were raised to the next grade when they were ready), Charles

York (School Board Chairman and father of Adelia), August Meppen and John Seyfert (instrumental in getting electric-

ity to the York area) stand at attention for picture-taking in 1906. (Photo courtesy of Thelma Johnson)



York School children in 1914-15, Leona Officer and William Crowder were their teachers. (Photo courtesy of Thelma Johnson)



Thunderheads promise rain for crop growth as Bob Shurley plants potatoes on the Richard Bennett farm off York Road. (Photo by Robert Bower)



Riverdale School and students in 1916. (Photo courtesy of Lowell Jensen)

Riverdale Grange was previously a school whose softball and football competition included York and Taylor. School at Riverdale began in the early 1900's. In the late 1940's a working agreement with School District #60 in

Shelley decided that high school students should attend school in Shelley. Both Riverdale and York Granges are now used as precinct halls for voting and as meeting halls for community picnics, weddings and parties.



Riverdale Grange on Shelley-New Sweden Highway in winter 1989. (Photo by Alice Horton)

Desert and Lavas

The most western part of Bonneville County with its desert, lava, cave and butte topography is an archeological, ecological and agricultural study ground.

Archeologist and paleontologist Susanne Miller writes about finds at the Wasden Site, Owl Cave. Around 12,000 years ago, Indians lived here and hunted large animals such as the mammoth. Climatic changes over the thousands of years resulted in these peoples' responding to and changing their lifeways. When the large animals became extinct, the Indians shifted their hunting prowess to the modern bison and pronghorn antelope, and became increasingly dependent on vegetable foods, roots, berries and seeds.

The INEL and federal, state and county governmental offices study the desert to see the interaction of organisms and their environment. Examination of permanent vegetation plots, trends in vegetation development; movement, population and food habits of rodents, reptiles, mammals, fish and birds; and environmental safety for flora and fauna are major concerns in keeping the area ecologically healthy.

Farmers and ranchers have greened the desert with pump irrigation. Deep wells, at first powered by windmills and now powered by electricity, are tapped for crops. Cattle and sheep graze on the desert, sharing grasses and sagebrush with local inhabitants and predators.

There are rattlesnake hibernaculums and the lava beds can be hiked. (Sturdy shoes are advised.) In the western Bonneville County desert, Kettle Butte, Butterfly Butte, St. Mary's Nipple and Neck jut from the flat plain. Seventeen Mile Cave is a favorite of spelunkers: the cool interior in summer is often a chamber of spoken pioneer tales and whispered ghost stores. Twenty Mile Rock is a landmark, and the Russet sponsored Noise Park has wheel marks.

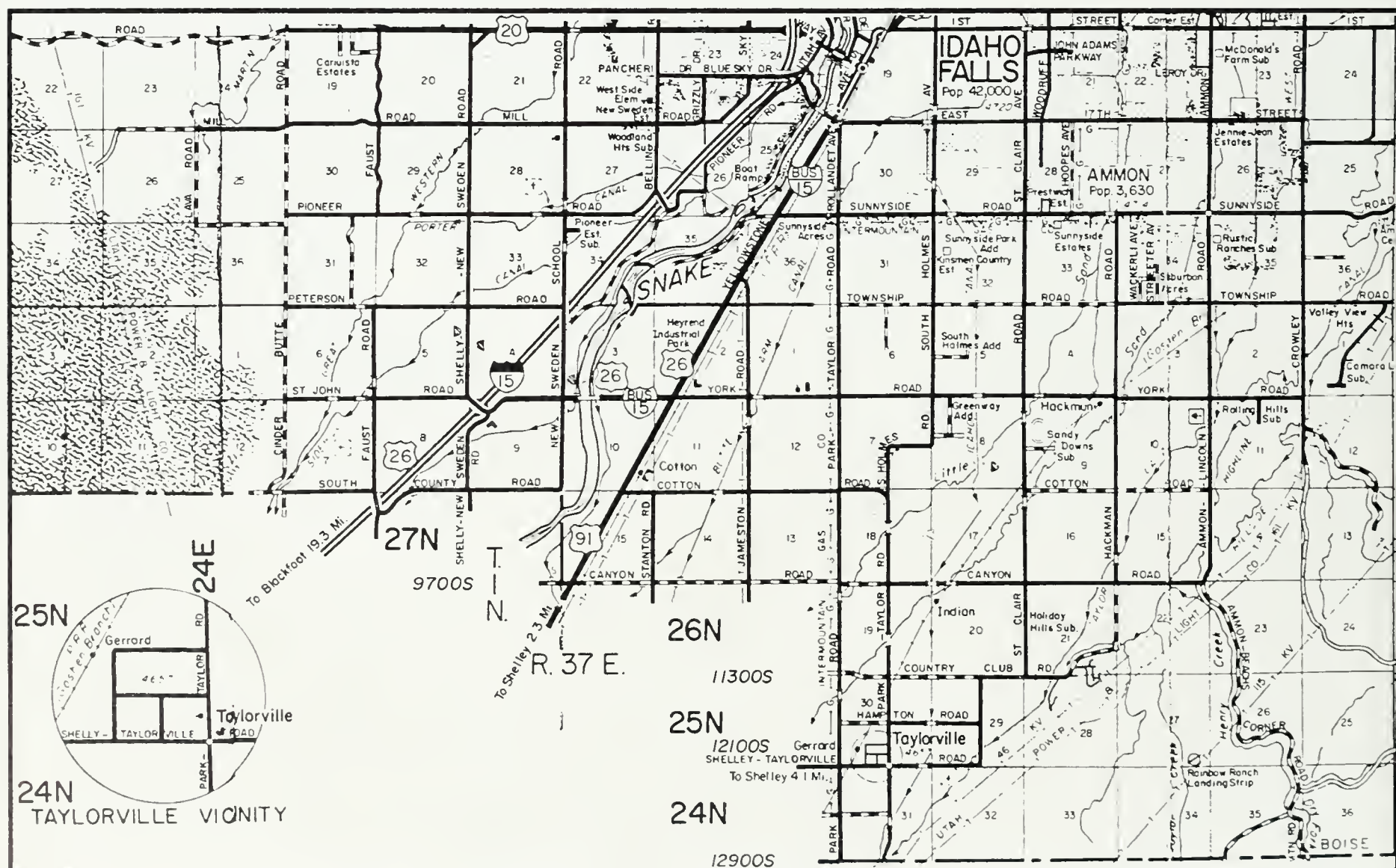
Flowers bloom. (Photo by Robert Bower)
East Twin Butte (not in Bonneville County) transmits free television to Bonneville County. (Photo by Quincy Jensen)
Seventeen Mile Cave with Jim Francis and Clair E. Gale students (Photo by Bower)







Lava outcroppings are the backdrop for potato farming on the desert. (Photo by Robert Bower)



New Sweden

The New Sweden pioneers came to settle the area west of the Snake River in 1894-1895. Some came via the Oregon Trail. The Trail was greatly advertised; caravans of covered wagons crossed the plains daily. Some came by rail and immigrant cars.

Original Great Western Headgates.
(Photo courtesy of Lowell and Janet Jensen)



View of Great Western Canal, Through 22 Foot Cut, Idaho Falls, Id

A branch line of the Union Pacific Railroad traveled north from Pocatello to Montana. The New Sweden pioneers came mostly from Nebraska, Iowa, Illinois, Minnesota and Pennsylvania.

The great Western Land and Irrigation Company and entered into an agreement with The Great Western Canal and Improvement Company to colonize the lands to be irrigated by the Great Western Canal System. The Great Western Canal Company with offices in Chicago began advertising in Swedish papers for would-be settlers of Swedish descent. In 1894-95 some twelve thousand acres, the entire development tract, was sold to Swedish settlers and residents of the prairie states, many of whom were happy to leave the drought bowls of the midwest. The company itself was operated by officials of Swedish descent and was affectionately called the "Swede Company." Its offer to establish

New Sweden Irrigation District hired men to maintain and improve the canals. In 1917-1918 the men had their picture



taken. Manager was Joe Gull second from right on the bottom row. In the spring until irrigation started and in the fall after harvest was over, canals needed cleaning. The tents in the background were for cooking and were quarters for up to twenty men. Men and their teams

made up canal camps which would move down the canal about once a week. The District furnished cooks and the meals cost 25¢ a meal. Pay was \$5.00 a day for a man and team. (Photos courtesy of Mike and Emma Beckman)



a Swedish settlement with 40 acres set aside for a church in the center of the land holdings, was a real inducement to the Swedish immigrants. And so they came. From the head of the Great Western Canal to its end was settled by Swedes and called New Sweden.

The fledgling New Sweden community of 1895 pulled together and went to work.

Red cedars for fuel and white cedars for fenceposts (they were straighter) were hauled from the lavas. The cedars were stacked for a year to season them. Emma Beckman remembers the "good smell" of cedar.

Up on Sink Hole, the old wooden flume "leaked like a sieve" til the wood swelled. Swedes, sheds and hogs pause for picture taking on Oscar Beckman's farm. (Photos courtesy of Mike and Emma Beckman)



Mrs. Andrew Beckman serves coffee to spud diggers on the Andrew Beckman place. A Globe threshing machine with steam engine at work in the fall of 1918 (Photos courtesy of John Beckman)

Horses pulling bobsleighs and wagons would head for the lavas where the cedars were plentiful. Cold winters demanded wood for heat; and with the abundance of wood, the cedars were often barter for food and services, too. It was sometimes dangerous for man and beast on the lavas. Crevices and cracks caught legs, wheels and sled runners; lava outcropping slashed and scraped bolting horses and weary timber hunters; and the winter cold and wind chilled the molten area once so hot with earth's magma. On their trips to the lavas, men took hay, bed rolls, a grub box and water barrels. Those men without overshoes wrapped sacks around their feet for protection.

They cleared the land preparing it for seed and crop growth. Water needs for proposed irrigation prompted the building of lateral canals, flumes and head-gates. The Great Western Canal Company could not keep pace with the fast growing community. Some settlers became discouraged when they could not meet their land payments and left.

Other settlers were discouraged by the high cost of land. They wanted land cost reduced and they wanted a chance to buy the canals and water rights. Through the advice of the company attorney, Judge O.E. McCutcheon and the able leadership of the settlement, the land cost (per acre) was reduced and the canals were purchased by the settlers. Thus the nagging difficulties were straightened out and the foundation for a successful New Sweden development ensued.

But the maintenance of the canals and laterals had been neglected. There was a need for an irrigation district to supervise and maintain the water system. In 1899, Judge McCutcheon aided in the passage of a law by the legislature of the State of Idaho legalizing the formation of irrigation districts. The New Sweden Irrigation District was the first irrigation district to be organized in the state of Idaho.

By 1895 a Swedish church had been built. It became the meeting place of Swedish Mission, Lutherans, Baptists and Methodists. The meetings of the church were recorded in Swedish. The church measured 28 feet wide, 36 feet long, 12 feet high. Construction help was \$1.25 for a ten hour day. Sand was \$2.50 and brick \$1.50 per wagon load.



New Sweden School

Proud of thy name are we
Happiest school in Idaho
Thus it must ever be
Fanned by the Western breezes
Warmed by the sunlight best
Give me forever New Sweden School
Pride of Bonneville's best.

Composed by Grover Jensen
(Chorus remembered by
by Mike Beckman)

New Sweden students and their teachers stand inside their school at Christmas time 1904. (Photo courtesy of Mike and Emma Beckman)

The winter of 1937 piled snow taller than cars, sometimes challenging telephone poles with drifts. The horsedrawn snow plow had Walker Asbury with the lead team—they were headed toward Broadway. (Photos courtesy of Lowell Jensen and John Beckman)



First New Sweden Church and School, 1895. (Photo courtesy of John Beckman)

John Beckman remembers when cars were just starting to be driven: "We could use them about six months of the year. Winters had too much snow and in the spring it took too long for the mud holes to dry out. Our roads had ditches across them and some were high levies with a narrow bridge—so you did not know if you were meeting anybody (from the other direction.)"



There has been a succession of New Sweden schools. The school still standing was built in 1927. It closed its doors in 1980

when children began attending Westside Elementary in Idaho Falls. (Photo courtesy of School District #91)

Carl Henry Abelson getting ready to go to church in 1918. "Bess" and "Dick" pulled Abelson and his surrey. (Photo courtesy of Aner Abelson)

Water was stored in cisterns. These cisterns were dug in the ground, then dirt walls were plastered with sand and cement mortar. They usually had lumber tops, but some were laid with bricks on top. Each ring of lumber or brick starting a little way down from the hole's opening would become a little smaller until it had a manhole in the center. These cisterns held water pretty well, remembers John Beckman. He also remembers a well that was dug about 1906 being a little over two hundred feet deep. Wind power was used to pump water to the surface.

Oscar Beckman and David Blom stand beside a cutter on the Andrew Beckman place. "Prince", Mike and "Bess" stand in the winter of 1935. (Photos courtesy of Mike and Emma Beckman)

Headgates on canals were worked with chains and wheels.





Hay is boosted to the barn loft in 1930. (Photo courtesy of John Beckman)

Lowell Jensen remembers that in 1937 potatoes were hand-picked. Potatoes went into bushel baskets. Two baskets equaled a half sack—7¢ for each half sack or 14¢ for two half sacks. The potatoes were taken to cellars, then loaded onto railroad carts. Railroad carts in New Sweden were called the Swedish railroad. The spud crew to the right would “shaker-sort” the potatoes. (Note baskets’ double use.) (Photos right: middle and bottom courtesy of Lowell Jensen. Picking spuds on the Andrew Beckman place. (Courtesy of Mike Beckman)



The old New Sweden Mill was a roller mill for stock feed. The farmers bought their grain to the Mill in wagons as

Old Swedish saying:
“I have to throw the horses over the fence the hay” (Keith and Ken Roland)

shown. (Photo courtesy of Mike and Emma Beckman)

Phil Holmquist remembers that it was a chuck of ice in your belly until the potatoes were in.



Huldah Lundblade Peterson, first teacher in New Sweden, recorded in her journal how schooling began in New Sweden. There had been no school, but a district had been organized—District No. 27, Bingham County.

She wrote that it was a large district extending from Oakland Valley to Woodville District. The west boundary was the lava beds and the eastern line within a mile or two of Idaho Falls. At first the church (Swedish Mission) which was being built was proposed as a school. But it was not ready yet, so school started in an old house. After six weeks the school was moved to the just completed Swedish Mission Church. School seats were furnished and the Oakland Valley pupils who resided on the river came.

There were no religious differences in New Sweden, so during the school days of early New Sweden the church was much in evidence as the same children came to both. Many programs were practical for school and church audiences. The Bible was read every morning and was followed by singing. On schooldays there were not only classes, but time at recess and lunch for outdoor sports. In winter, the Porter Canal with its clear track of good skating beckoned. There were no barb wire fences and no headgates to stop the going. Good skaters could cover the six mile distance to Idaho falls and back within the lunch hour.

Near the turn of the century a Library Hall was erected and used for public meetings, elections, entertainment and social gatherings. The funds raised from the social events were used to purchase books and supplies.

A group of old settlers met at the home of Andrew Burkman in June 1919. These gentlemen established the New Sweden Pioneer Association. Annual meetings and reunions have been held ever since. The first was celebrated at Charlie Carlson's home, subsequent picnic-reunion-meetings have been held at the New Sweden Irrigation District Ranch, New Sweden School grounds and most recently at Sealander Park. The purpose of this association is stated: "Keep alive the memories of the pioneer days in New Sweden from the first days when the settlement was reclaimed from the desert through hard labor and numerous hardships by the pioneers and made to be a beauty spot in the Snake River Valley."



Pioneers of New Sweden: from left to right on front row: Godfrey Erickson, Chas. E. Anderson, P.A. Lundblade, Gilbert G. Wright, O.E. McCutcheon, Andrew Beckman, Andrew Burkman; second row: Aleck Swanson, Oscar Lundstrom, C.J. Erickson, Gust Beckman, O.E. Fast, Chris J. Witt, Andrew Mel-

quist; third row: Oscar E. Beckman, Jonas Jackson, Chas. J. Carlson, S.A. Hansen, Arthur Lundgren, John B. Anderson, John Long; fourth row: Axel B. Anderson, S.A. Johnson, Arthur Lundblade, Fred E. Anderson, Chas. Moody, Peter Anderson, Carl W. Peterson and Oscar B. Anderson.

Chas. Anderson's famous flower garden. (Photos courtesy of Lowell Jensen)





Picnics are plentiful in summer. Pictured is a New Sweden community picnic celebrating the 4th of July in 1910. An American Flag waves atop the garlanded "Midsommar" pole.

Musical entertainment, delicious refreshments and happy comradery delight now as they did then. (Photos courtesy of David Sealander)



Folks, mules and buggies are headed for a ballgame at Sugar. Middle: This huge barn still stands. It was built before the Great Western Canal was dug. It stalls forty-two head of horses or mules and holds one hundred tons of hay in its lofts. (Photos courtesy of Wylie Snarr)

In 1906 the New Sweden Cemetery Association was formed to maintain the cemetery resting on the land donated by the Great Western Canal Company back in 1895. In 1974 a group of new Sweden residents erected a beautiful memorial at the cemetery entrance. It is dedicated to the New Sweden Pioneers and honors all who rest there.

New Sweden is a well kept, prosperous community with fertile lands producing potatoes, grains and alfalfa. The irrigation system that began with the Great Western Canal then became the New Sweden Irrigation District, has consolidated the Martin Canal Company in 1984 and the Capitol Hill Company in 1989. All are now under the New Sweden Irrigation District. New Sweden is proud of its heritage and plans to keep the memories alive and growing.

Sealand Park

“If you get anything farming, you’ve got to steal it.” (David Sealand)

Sealand Park is in New Sweden. In the 1930’s Carl Sealand built a levee to get water to his stock. The water drained to a waste hollow by the lava rocks and formed a pond. Cedar trees grew around the pond. There was a higher grassy spot—perfect for picnics. In the 1940’s the Sealand family used this part of their farm for picnics and parties. People started asking for permission to use this delightful facility for their gatherings. Claus, Carl’s son, scraped a new pond in 1945, a fireplace was added in 1949, and a stage in 1951. No charge was made for use of the park, but donations were accepted. (Some of these funds were used to build restrooms and to drill a well.) The popular park has been used for picnics, family reunions, Girl Scouts Day Camp, 4-H picnics, Elks’ and Eagles’ Lodges parties, company parties and even weddings. (Photo by Quincy Jensen.)

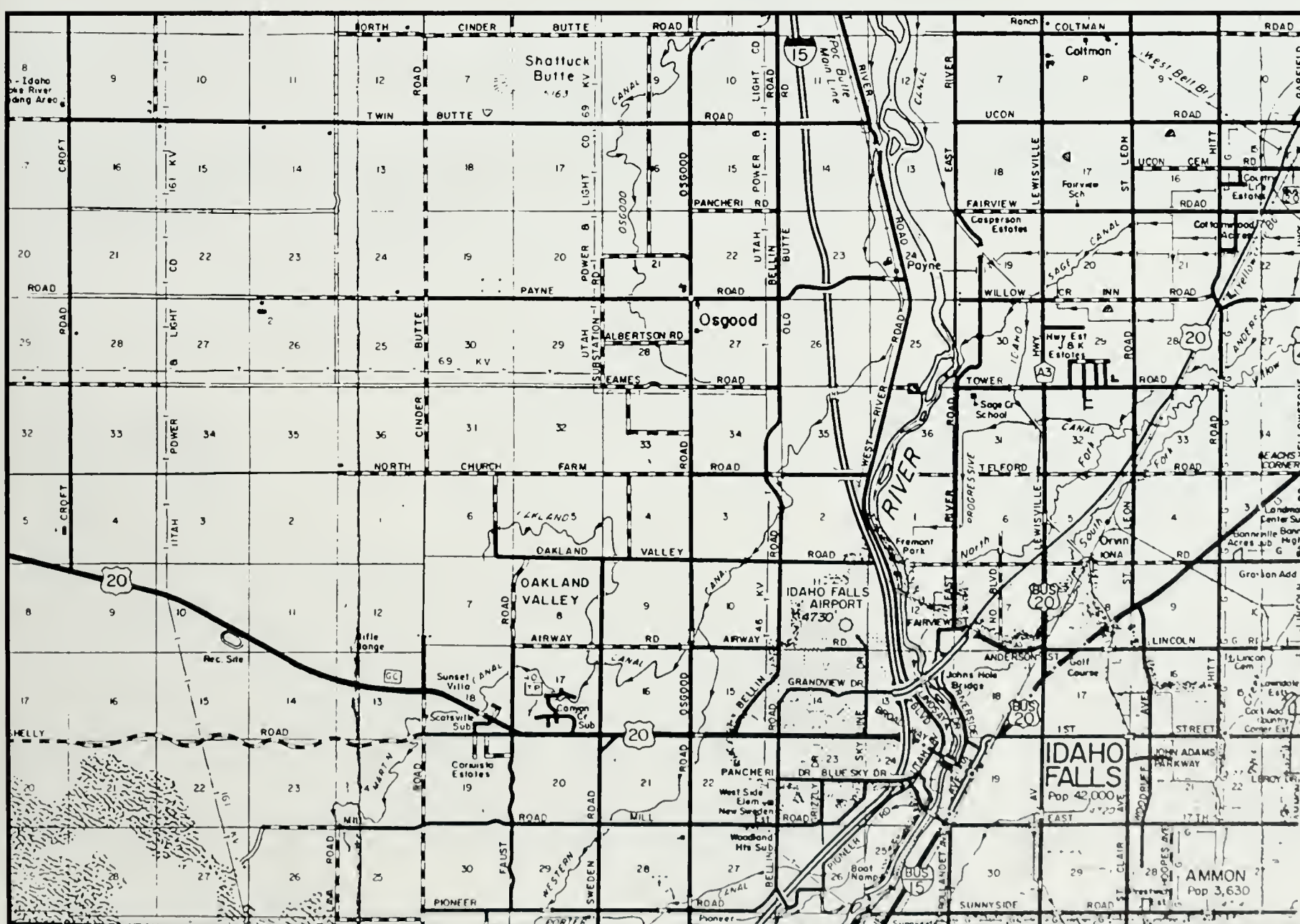


Osgood

At one time in Osgood's history there were ninety-six operative farms, nineteen still exist. George Brunt, an Idaho Falls businessman, was the first to envision the sweep of irrigation's future in the Osgood area. He planted a trial test of alfalfa, oats, clover and wheat on a ten foot patch of ground, and convinced the town's bankers to come out and inspect the growth and yield. What they saw enveloped the desert floor. Brunt teamed with five business and professional men—L.A. Hartert, J.L. Milner, W.L. Shattuck, A.T. Shane and O.A. Johansen—to buy and clear the 7000 acres of dry farm tract. These men began farming the Osgood Project, known then as the Idaho Falls Dry Farm Association, in 1904. H.C. "Bud" Frew was the general manager at the tender age of seventeen.



George Brunt (Photo courtesy Joe Marker)



The scene of more than a hundred head of horses and mules pulling the big combines across the fields brought spectators from all over the valley. Seed crops were grown.

In 1915 the dry farm experimenters became even more bold and decided to pump water from the Snake River onto the Project. The Project had to supply that much water high on the watershed to the Snake River. The group put in two reservoirs near Moran, Wyoming: Two Oceans and Emma Matilda. When Beula Hammer Landon was five, her family lived in a tent for the summer at Emma Matilda. She remembers picking wild strawberries; her mother, Esther, cooked and her father, Sam, worked on the reservoir. A pipeline was built from the Snake to the pumping plant where big generators lifted the water onto the farm land. After the water pumped fifty-five feet, the water had to cover the land. There was an eighteen foot high ridge on the contour canal (surveyed by Joe Marshall) built by a ditcher, commonly called a go-devil. The go-devil was pulled by thirty-two teams, sixty-four horses, and would raise the dirt out of the cut to the surface. The canal was dug fifteen feet deep. With hard-pan strata running through the soil, it took a long time for water to soak into the ground. For the first few years it took an enormous amount of water to irrigate the land. A total outlay of \$425,000 was allocated for the project and Brunt was named general manager. Early in 1919 the ground was sold to Dr. Osgood of Ogden, Utah, and then returned to the original owners. In late 1919 Osgood project was sold to Utah-Idaho Sugar Company. Under Sugar Company tutelage the project was expanded to 12,000 acres. Sugar beets for the factory were the main crop. (Potatoes were also grown.)

An L.D.S. church, the Osgood Dependent Branch of the Idaho Falls First Ward, was organized in the home of I.J. Stewart. The first church house was completed in 1927. Additions have been added whenever the church house seemed to bulge at its seams.

Top: The first Osgood School was a one-room frame building moved to Osgood by the Sugar Company. Middle: Pictured is the Osgood School built in 1928. A.L. Owens served as first principal. (Photos

86 courtesy of District #91)





Bottom, left: Present Osgood School is alive and well. Grades first through sixth attend school here.



The Landon children posed with red cedar gathered from the lava and depended upon for firewood. The bum lamb depended on milk, not cedar. (Photos courtesy of Beula Landon)

Osgood's first school in 1921 was a one room building. The teacher, Meta Smith, taught all eight grades. Later two, then three, rooms were added and in 1928 a new brick school was built. It was modern with inside plumbing, electricity and a coal furnace. Transportation to school was the responsibility of each family. Students walked, rode horseback (horses were stabled at the community barn across the street from school), came in wagons and sleighs until a real school bus was purchased. In 1931 Osgood high school students were bussed to Ammon by Keith Stewart. (He with Elwin Smith built this bus.) In 1961 a new bus was purchased. It was used not only for the school students, but also for the community of Osgood, too. Excursions



L.D.S. church house built in 1927. (Photo courtesy of Melba Landon)

by bus were enjoyed by Osgood adults. Eventually, the high school students attended school in Idaho Falls instead of Ammon.

Community affairs were and are held in the school building. In the new gym, dances were held every Friday and Saturday, and they had a live orchestra. Two of the early musicians came from New Sweden and played accordions: Claus Sealander and Noble Lundblade. Three act plays were high drama—a really good play was taken to nearby communities for their enjoyment. In the summer a bowery was constructed over a stone slab. The top was covered with willow branches to shade the occupants.

The Osgood ball field, scene of festive picnics, energetic ball playing and summer day and evening entertainments, now has new lights making dusk and evening recreation possible.

LaDean Marshall adds that no Osgood history would be complete without the names of the Japanese people and the Shattuck Project. W.L. Shattuck, a great friend of the Japanese, and one of the original owners of the Osgood Project, pumped water onto a large tract of high land and sold it to Japanese families on a potato contract (so many sacks of #1 potatoes per acre per year.) These families pooled their labor to sort their own potatoes and harvest their hay and grain.

They were the Morishitas, Ogawas, Kasakas, Hirais, Kobayashis, Horis, Yamasakis, Satos, Kuwanas, Uedas and the Nishiokas. These families were hard working, thrifty, honest people who became very good irrigators and farmers. Mrs. Morishita came here from Japan to marry Mr. Morishita, never having seen him before. They raised a special family and she never wavered from her contract.

Mrs. Yamasaki had to leave two of her sons in Japan with her husband's mother in order to bring the rest of her family to America.

Marshall adds that these people are good neighbors, loyal Americans and they work for good schools, better government and fair laws. They are a credit to Bonneville County and especially to the Osgood community.



Lights tower above Osgood's ball field. Dusk and evening recreation and entertainment are now possible at this well-kept facility.

1939-1940 Nooning at the Lee Marshall farm after a morning harvesting are:
Front row: Tack Sato, Sam Yamasiki, ??
second row: Sud Morishita, Dean Mar-

shall, Kenzo Morishita, Tucker Morishita third row: Norman Marshall, Frank Yamasaki



In the early days, community schools dotted the county. The **Oakland Valley School** students' parents came by Union Pacific Immigrant trains from Oakland, Nebraska. The school had one teacher for all eight grades. When one lesson had been taught to one grade, those children were excused to play in the basement. A slack coal bin offered great excitement. Wylie Snarr remembers blackened, happy school children when reminiscing of Oakland Valley.

The **Payne School** at Payne Siding (named after George Payne, first yardmaster for Union Pacific Railroad Company at Idaho Falls) had grades one **Payne Siding School 1911-1924.** (Photo courtesy of School District #91) Fred Keller's Dodge bus with children inside and out. (page 90) (Photos courtesy Darlene Shipp Fullmer)



through eight also. The school's walls were three bricks thick and its ceiling was twelve feet high. After it closed as a school in 1924, it was used as a spud house, then a family dwelling. Presently it rests on a high lava rock foundation on its original site at Phil Holmquist's farm.

Early school wagons had wood boxes for seats, and sometimes a pot-bellied stove in back that the bigger boys kept going for warmth. The school bus pictured here was bought when Payne School was closed and the children had to be transported to Idaho Falls for school. The year of this picture is 1924; the bus, a Dodge, was purchased for

\$4,500 by Fred Keller; Mike Keller (Fred's brother) was hired as a bus driver. Among those families with children who rode the bus were Beal, DeFillippis, Swanson, Brown, Snarr, Barstow, Bruce, Lundgren, Morishita, Kuwana, Copeland, Seedall, Gearsaw, Cazier, Ulrich, David, King, Simpson, Slieghton, Byerly, Crouch, Grady, Nelson and Gross. Students over the sixth grade went to the old Central School on Elm Street at Water Avenue, and those under the sixth grade went to the old Eagle Rock School on South Chamberlain Avenue.

The Sage Creek School for Retarded Children

By Mae Tomblison

As late as 1949, there was no place west of the Mississippi River where distraught parents of deviate or handicapped children could get help or advice—except “Take your children to the State Institution and forget about them. Nothing can be done to help them.”

In March of 1949 there was a news article in the local paper about a Dr. B.G. Schmidt's having taught a group of retarded children in Chicago during the war. Schmidt believed that “there was no such thing as a feeble-minded child.”





After reading the article, hopeful, fearful parents of five retarded children met with a mental health class that was starting a Mental Health Association in Idaho Falls, Idaho. After the class, a meeting was held. The discussion was directed by Dr. J.O. Cromwell, superintendent of Idaho State Hospital at Blackfoot, Idaho. Cromwell felt it was possible to teach such a class as Schmidt's. He said he "knew it could be done, and they could do it."

In late July school nurses, Beryl Bishop, Etta Lee, County Superintendent of Schools Eunice Meppen and Dr. Cromwell, hearing of a conference on "Exceptional Children In A Free Society" to be held August 1-3 at the University of Mississippi, recommended that Mr. and Mrs. E.M. Tomblison attend. They did. On their return the Tomblisons gave their hopeful report to forty-five parents and interested citizens. A committee was nominated with instructions to find a room and a teacher.

By February of 1950 twenty-seven potential students had been tested mentally and physically. Parents (Landons, Butkofers, Schencks, Baxters, Byingtons, Tomblisons) renovated the abandoned Sage Creek School. Church, civic and business groups donated appliances. In March 1950 The Sage Creek School for Retarded Children opened its doors. It was the first school of its kind in Idaho. Mae Tomblison, a parent and elementary teacher greeted the fearful, hopeful parents and children (seven of them, aged 4 1/2 to 18 years old.) By June there were seventeen attending the Bonneville School District #91 school.

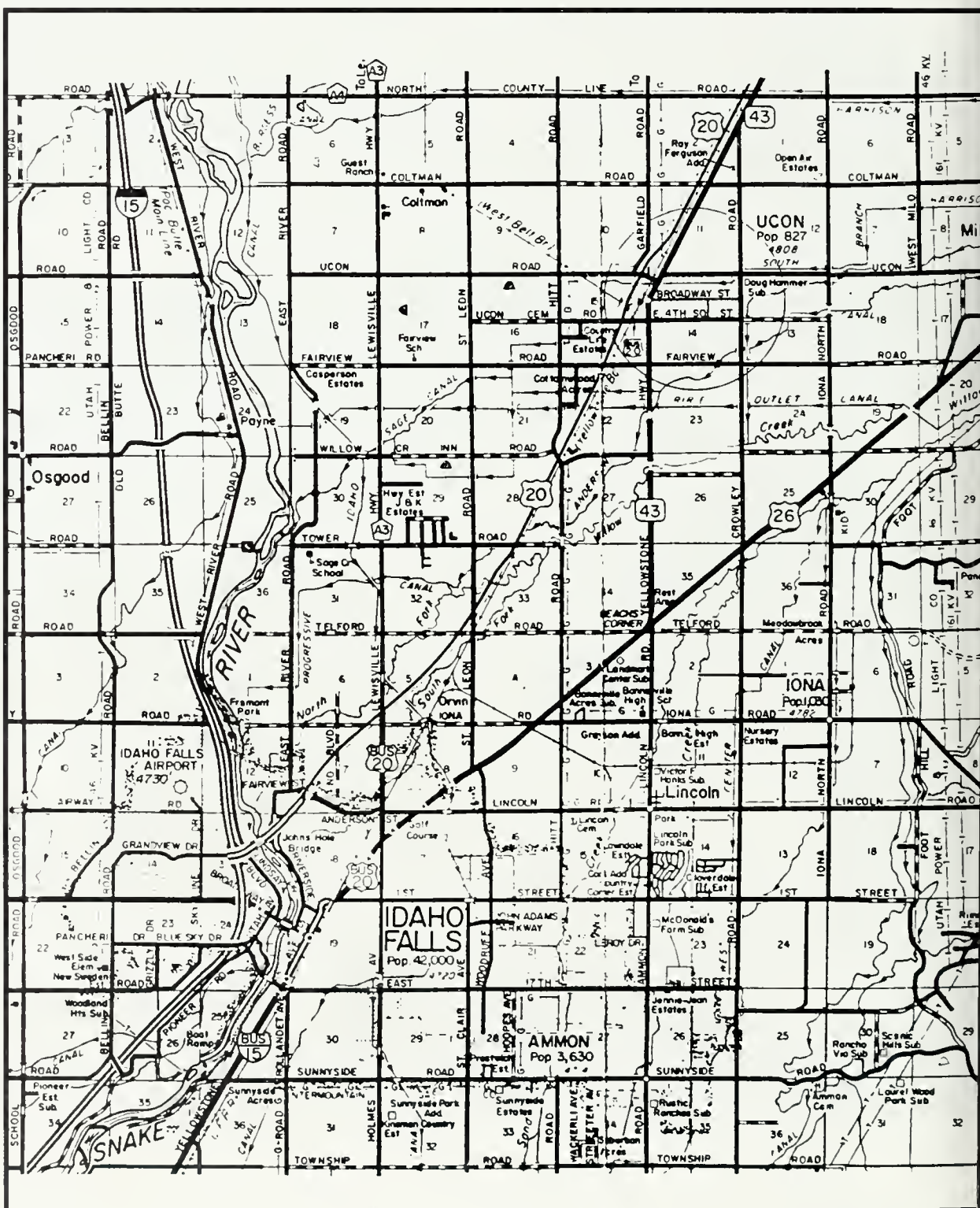
In the fall of 1950 the school moved to a larger building, and the name became "The St. Leon Opportunity School", School District #93.

At St. Leon, the first university training programs for teachers were in 1951; Mary K. Merrell, a social worker, joined Tomblison as assistant in St. Leon's third year when twenty-seven students

were attending; bus service and a full-time cook came in the fourth year; in the school's fifth year, Esther Hogg an elementary and special education teacher was hired. By 1958 there were twenty-one special schools in Idaho and in 1960-1961 special needs children were within the regular school system. Etta Lee sums it: With the physical, financial and emotional help of many people, the Sage Creek School opened its doors to a few mentally handicapped children, March 6, 1950. This was the first such school in Idaho, and one of the first west of the Mississippi River. With the encouraging words from Dr. J.O. Cromwell, Supt. of State Hospital South, "You can do it! We'll help" the interested, hopeful group forged ahead. After proving themselves, the school qualified for state school funds, moved to a larger St. Leon School and was renamed "St. Leon Opportunity School."



Sage Creek and St. Leon Today.



Coltman

The earliest settlers came to the Colman area about 1888-1889. Most were Mormons from Utah. Some, converts to the L.D.S. Church, had recently come from Germany, Switzerland, England and the Scandinavian countries. Many of them took up land under the Homestead Act. They cleared the sagebrush, built cabins and affiliated with the Saints at Lewisville and Willow Creek, and later with Grant Ward.

As the population grew, Coltman became a voting precinct and a school district. The name Coltman was chosen in honor of Edward Coltman, the postmaster of Idaho Falls.



Top: The 1886 school used by the school, community and church.

Middle: The Coltman Grade School built in 1922. It had four rooms. (Photos courtesy of Ina and Albert Rasmussen)

Bottom: The 1922 Coltman Grade School now closed as a school, but renovated as the Later's Villa. (Photo by Alice Horton)



Fairview-Coltman Elementary School in 1989. (Photo by Alice Horton)

Grant South Sunday School was organized in 1897; South Branch (later Coltman Branch) was organized in 1904; and Coltman Branch became a ward in 1906. The small frame school building built in 1896 was bought by the church in the early 1900's when the new brick school was built. (This school burned down in 1921.) The original 1896 school housed all church functions for many years. In 1925 a new Coltman chapel was under construction at a total cost of \$23,000. It was dedicated in 1929. In 1961 the Coltman Ward was transferred to the East Idaho Falls Stake.

Coltman School 1928

Bottom row left to right: Don Hudman, Darrell Gneiting, Ephrium Stucki, ? Russell, Thayne Sargent, Delbert Weiderburg, Elmer Cromwell, Maurice Butikofer, Grant Stucki, Kieth Gneiting, Joy Sargent, Wayne Ward, LeRoy Rasmussen, Merrill Butikofer.

2nd row left to right: Irene Hudman, Rhoda Stucki, Annie Jepson, Florence Young, ??, Elaine Sargent, Ella Mushlfeit, Barbara Hudman, Edna Severson, Lucile Severson, ??, Mar-

cella Jepson, Ella Rasmussen, Lucy Rasmussen, ??. Gladys Butikofer, Irene Butikofer.

3rd row left to right: Max Brinton, Holly Hudman, ??, George Sargent, Arnold Harris, Dean Gneiting, Joe Cromwell, LeRoy Weiderburg, Roy Wilkins, Howard Brinton, Lloyd Sargent, ??, Orville Severson.

Back row left to right: Alair Young, Cora Young (teacher), Ella Robbins (teacher), Mr. Robbins (teacher), (Photo and names courtesy of Maurice Butikofer)





Coltman Community effort on the Welfare Farm. Proceeds were used, partly, to finance the building of an addition to the church house.
 Top: 1953 Groundbreaking celebration.
 Top Right: Cutting seed potatoes.
 Middle and Bottom: Getting fields ready for spud planting. (Photos courtesy of Ina and Albert Rasmussen)



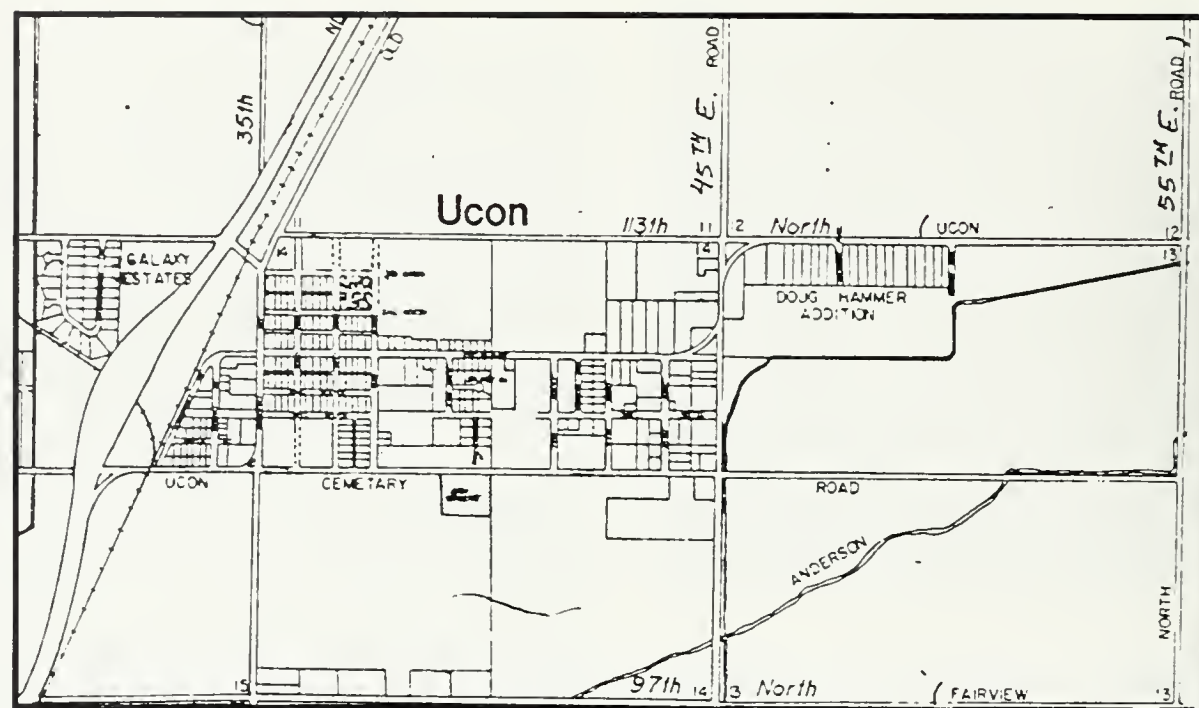
Ucon

In 1911 a mass meeting was held to name the Willow Creek community. Twain, Strong and Yukon were the names in the running. The Willow Creek Elva Postal Department chose Ucon (with a spelling change.)

In the late 1870's and early 1880's the Willow Creek area extended as far east as Black's Canyon, to Willow Creek on the south and to its present boundaries on the west and north. The tasks of real pioneering changed the sagebrush flats into acres of tillable ground for potatoes, beets, alfalfa and grain. Matches, beans and bacon could be purchased in Eagle Rock—shoes and cloth had to come from Salt Lake City, Utah. Indians were frequent visitors. Settlers in the 1880's found enough wild game (deer, buffalo, beaver, bear and fox) to make trapping and hunting somewhat profitable.

These earliest pioneers settled along Willow Creek in what is now Shelton and Milo because of the natural stream's water. The next pioneers settled in the Milo and Ucon area. In 1883-1893 there was a period of great growth. "Gold Fever" brought some of the pioneers to Willow Creek. They panned for gold along the Snake River north of Idaho Falls. Gold fever gradually abated because the powdery form defied washing.

Early pioneers lived in dugouts or in their wagons until logs could be brought from Black's Canyon for houses. The first home of rough logs had a ridge pole roof, roof and sides were chinked and the floors were dirt (until boards were available from the sawmills.) The logs cut at Black's Canyon were hauled by teams to the Snake River and rafted to where the Great Feeder Headgate is above Heise. They were then loaded on wagons and hauled to the valley. After houses and shelters were built, the land had to be cleared of the sagebrush tall as a man. Axes, then dragged rails, then slip-scrapers cleared and leveled the land. First main crops in Ucon were wheat, oats, barley and alfalfa—some corn and sugar cane. The grain was taken to Eagle Rock and sold for 40c-45c per bushel—the average yield was 55 to 60 bushels per acre. George Simmons at the separa-



tor and Joseph Ray at the engine operated the first threshing machine in 1883.

The cottonwood trees that grew along the streams were dug up and replanted along fences and around houses. Straight rows of trees enclosed clean swept door yards. Yards were often sprinkled to keep them packed hard, then swept clean as a floor. In 1885 A.B. Simmons sent two wagon loads (about fifty sacks) of Cottonwood, Balm of Gilead and Black Willow cuttings from Weber Valley in Utah to Amos Robinson in Ucon. These were planted to take the bareness from the open country, to give shade and to offer relief from the seemingly ever blowing wind as wind-breaks. Groves of trees were planted

when men filed a Timber Culture Entry (TC)—twenty acres of trees for each one hundred sixty acres of land to be planted and cultivated for eight years. Apple and pear trees were planted. Orville Buck won first prize at the World's Fair for his apples in the year 1887-1888. Hank Keefer, when eighteen years old, planted his first apple orchard. In 1890 the Keefer's trees bore such large quantities of fruit that the local demand for fresh fruit was supplied. Orin Lee Sr. had several trees bearing three different kinds of apples. He grafted them using several varieties brought from Utah.

Irrigation was as vital to Ucon as to the other communities in Bonneville County. In 1888 Willow Creek, the An-



The men pictured were some of those responsible for early canals of Willow Creek—Ucon: Andrus, Jensen, Severson,

Holland and Jensen. (Photo courtesy of Caroline Mackay)

derson Canal and Farmer's Friend Canal were worked with the team and scraper to make them more useful.

The earliest settlers were not affiliated with any church in particular. Mormon pioneers moving into the area in 1883 felt a need for religious meetings. Cottage meetings were held in homes. West Willow Creek Sunday School was organized in 1892. At first meetings were held in a Ucon home, then in a Hard Scrabble home until a log meeting house could be completed. When the first log meeting house was completed, a second meeting house, made with rock dug from the hills southeast of Milo, was started in 1884.

The first school in Willow Creek was held in the Orville Buck home with Miss Jennie Beam as teacher. In 1889 a log school building was built. The 1891 Hard Scrabble School (also known as Root Hog or Die School) was funded mostly by donations. Hard Scrabble was a one-room log building with battens covering the cracks of the uprights to keep out the cold. The floors were planks. The name Hard Scrabble came from the hardships and struggles encountered just to get to school. Food and clothes were needed to make school attendance possible. The weather was not hospitable in winter. And the winters were long. Sometimes older young peo-



Old Ucon Water Tank (Photo courtesy of Caroline Mackay)



Pictured are the Postal Depot in Elva, Idaho and the first school-church in Ucon. (Photos courtesy of Tom Andrus). This red brick school with bell tower was built after 1906. (Photo courtesy of Caroline Mackay)

ple came to school just to have something to do. In 1892 Little Log School House was built. It had a dirt roof which grew wild yellow flowers in summer, a pot bellied stove which warmed the students in winter and a two-hole privy in the rear which served nature's needs all year round. Then came the 1906 two story red brick school with a bell tower on top; then the 1925 new red brick school with a room and a teacher for each grade; and the present Ucon Elementary. More than a century's worth of schools have educated at Willow Creek. Ucon consolidated in 1950 with Am-

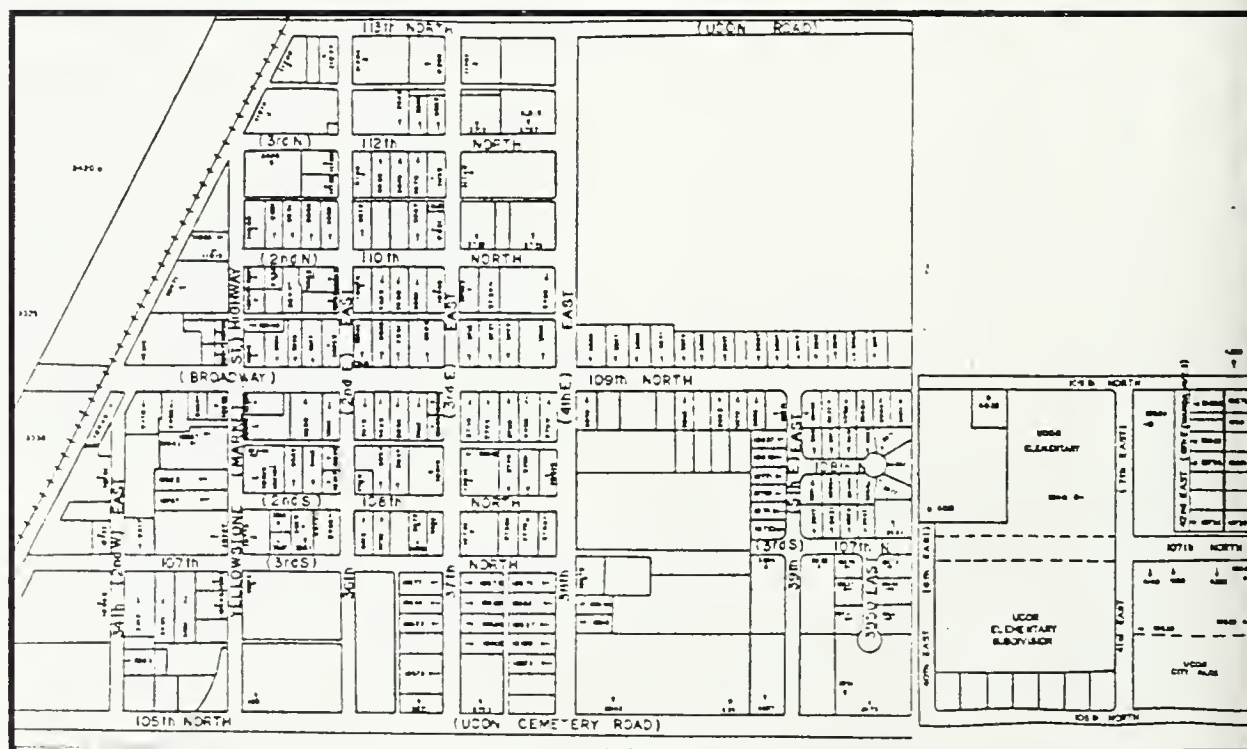
mon, St. Leon, Fairview, Coltman, Lincoln, Iona, Milo, Garfield and Shelton under one school board—School District #93. All former superintendents became principals of their respective schools.

Early businesses were Mr. Poll's Coal Yard (he also had the first beet dump), small general stores, blacksmith, lumber yard and hotel. The Gem State Roller Mill began in 1908 when the Idaho Power Company ran an electric line to Ucon. Besides power for the mill, people were given electricity for lighting. The roller mill was a great asset to the growth and development of the Ucon community. It burned in July of 1927, but was rebuilt. In 1910 the first butcher shop replaced the "butcher wagon" (pulled by a span of mules.)

From 1907 to 1910 Ucon was one of the largest grain shipping points in Idaho—dry farming was profitable. When in 1914 a loop railroad was built to service the country to the south, east and north, the towns of Iona, Heath Siding and Ririe received the trade that had been Ucon's.

Miskin Scraper Works began in 1917—the year the United States entered World War I. Arthur Miskin invented the Miskin Scraper to replace the Fresno Scraper (slip scraper.) The Miskin had a pan put in a frame so that the pan could be tipped to fill it, and upset to empty it. It also had wheels making it easier to pull and a seat permitting the operator to ride and operate the scraper with his feet, leaving his hands free for driving his team (usually a four horse team hitched abreast.) Good war prices encouraged farmers to raise all of the crops they could, which in turn boosted Miskin's sales. At first, it took two to three weeks to build one scraper, but as production improved and more people were employed, seven scrapers a day were produced with a thirty-two man workforce. The business slump of 1920 almost wrecked the Miskin Company, but the confidence of his creditors in his honesty and integrity kept him from going bankrupt.

The Crowley School has become The Country Store Boutique (photo by Afton Bitton) MISKIN has remained MISKIN.



Business places have changed in Ucon as the years have progressed. Not only have businesses changed within buildings, but locations have changed, too. The metamorphoses have been plenty: mercantile to gift shop; poolhall, grocery and meat market to produce company; hotel to apartments and homes. A hardware store, ice cream store and Gem State Roller Mill all burned to the ground. Gem State was the only phoenix to rise again. Then the Roller Mill became the Ucon Bonded Mill. Instead of flour, it handled potatoes, feed, seed supplies and coal. Livery to service station reflects the changes in transportation.

The people of Ucon met in August of 1893 to discuss the advantages of a townsite in upper Ucon. They found that there were economic, social and protective (from the Indians) advantages. The proposed townsite covered a forty acre plat, and was owned by Alfonzo Bert

Simmons who sold it for \$12.00 an acre with deed. Each block of Ucon townsite included ten acres, with two and a half acres per lot. In 1911, the part of Ucon on the east side of the Yellowstone Highway (known as Andrus Sub-division) was accepted as the lower Ucon townsite; then later, Assessor's Plot (land across the highway west) was added.

Willow Creek Memorial-Daughters of Utah Pioneers

IN 1883-84 A GROUP OF MORMONS FROM UTAH SETTLED IN THE AREA. THEY CLEARED SAGEBRUSH FROM ARID LAND, DUG CANALS AND BUILT HUMBLE HOMES. THEY ERECTED A LOG ROOM WHICH WAS USED FOR CHURCH, SCHOOL AND RECREATION. HATTI SMITH WAS THE FIRST SCHOOL TEACHER. AN L.D.S. WARD WAS ORGANIZED AUGUST 11, 1888 WITH ALPHONZO B. SIMMONS BISHOP. THEY NAMED THE TOWN WILLOW CREEK FOR THE STREAM THAT FLOWED THRU THE LAND, BUT IN 1911 THE NAME CHANGED TO UCON.

Melissa Berrett Camp-No. 195
Erected 1954



Inscription on the Willow Creek Memorial can be read at left of photograph.

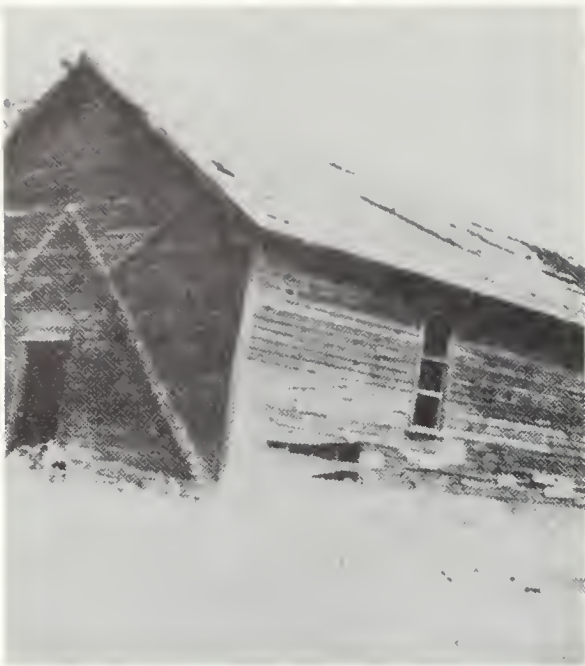


Ucon School and first Ucon High School. First high school graduating class was 1930-31. (Photo courtesy of Caroline Mackay)



Denning Well Drilling and church Welfare Service are alive and well in Ucon, Idaho.





Old Dance Hall (Courtesy of Tom Andrus) 4th of July Parade (Courtesy of Caroline Mackay)



Ucon Post Office on North Yellowstone Hwy.; Ucon City Park on 110 North 38 East; Ucon Cemetery on Ucon Cemetery Road; Simmons Park on Ucon Cemetery Road

Milo

The irrigation system in Milo started with the pioneers in the early 1880's. Settlers filed upon the land, built homes and brought water from the river to their land for the growing of crops. Men would leave their homes, sometimes for weeks at a time, to excavate the canals with teams of horses and slip scrapers. The Farmer's Friend Canal, formed when a few farmers banded together to get water from the Snake, was a natural stream partway, but had to be enlarged. Other early canals in the area were the Long Island Canal, the Parks and Lewisville, the Burgess or Swail, the Rudy and Harrison and the Idaho and Enterprise. The Harrison Canal, whose company was organized the year Idaho received statehood, 1890, was named after United States President Benjamin Harrison. Many Milo residents drew water from the Harrison.

When high water on the South Fork came it often changed the course of these canals. One year when the water was extremely high, it filled Dry Bed, the natural channel the Burgess drew from. The Burgess was shut off. The farmers worked to open it—but when summer ended, many of their crops had been irrigated only once. The solution was to build a canal from the Dry Bed to the Snake which would serve as the head for many channels. They built the Great Feeder—a canal one hundred feet wide at the bottom and eight feet deep. At the time it was the largest (but not longest) canal in the world. Men with teams and slip scrapers worked to ensure the Great Feeder's success as a source for the network of smaller canals irrigating the valley.

Milo settlers went to Eagle Rock for their mail before 1892. Then the U.S. Government set up a post office in Orrin Lee's home. Mail came to Leorin three times a week by way of Iona, then was carried from Leorin to Rudy (Clark.) June of 1894, the mail contract included service to Prospect (Shelton.)

In 1886 the settlers erected a log school building to accommodate the growing number of children attending



Milo School Class in early 1900's—
First row: Gertrude Palmer, Elam Huffaker, Carl Sessions, Lloyd Jordan, Pete Nelson (Teacher)
Second row: Johnny Palmer, Mary Riley, Sam Eames, Eva Bates, Joe Tolley, Libby Jordan, Allen Huffaker.

school in the Buck and Heath homes. It stood in a clearing one-half mile east of Milo Road on the Ririe Highway. A blackboard, rough home-made benches and wood-burning stove were the furnishings. At community parties, the benches were pushed back and fiddle music beckoned dancers' feet. As the community grew, this school became too small, so the district was divided into Buck and Leorin to provide more school houses. The new frame school at Leorin, built on land given by Peter Nelson, gathered its pupils to class by the ringing of the big bell in its tower: 8:30 and 9:00 am and 1:00 pm. The first teacher Frank Jordan taught from 1896-1902. Additional rooms and modernization held the Leorin School in good stead until its merge with Ucon in 1945.

Leorin was organized as Milo Ward in 1900 by taking parts of Willow Creek (Ucon) and Shelton Wards. The community now became Milo—named after Milo Andrus a Mormon pioneer who had led a company of Mormons across the plains to the Intermountain West. The first ward meeting was held on March 18, 1900, in the new church house (built in one month.) Subsequent L.D.S. church houses have been expanded, been raised, been erected to the pre-

Third row: Orin Woolley, Ivan Davis, Lloyd Atkinson, Melvin Jordan, Charlie Sessions, Carrie Elliot, Lewis Bird.
Back row: Martha Pitman, Julia Riley, Caroline Davis, Mary Bird, Bertha Eames, Lizza Elliot, Elsie Frame, Florence Jordan, Leo Woolley, Annie Elliot.



Milo School House with bell tower. (Photos courtesy of Lila Skinner)

sent day.

A colorful succession of Milo community stores, on solid ground and on wheels, has served the area.

As with all the communities in Bonneville County, a cemetery has been diligently and carefully maintained. In the

beginning care of the cemetery was paid for by donations and sales of lots—meager sums. L.B. Harmon wanted the cemetery organized into a district, where assessments could be levied providing income for improvements and care. Reed Andrus, a representative for Bonneville County in the Legislature, introduced a bill to lower the valuation required for the organization of cemetery districts. With the bill's passage, an election in 1931 was called for a vote on the organization of the cemetery district. The vote passed and L.B. Harmon was appointed Commissioner of Cemetery District #1 by the governor.

"The Burn" was a strip of land about five miles wide and seven miles long, where people gathered for picnics and parties. A raging fire had cleared the area of sage brush and grass, leaving a perfect place for celebrations. No trees for shade, but lovely bowerys were made with leafy willows from Willow Creek.

Milo Baseball Squad in 1916-17

Back row left to right: Ben Cleverly, Frank Newman, Sam Eames, A.C. Hancey (Manager.) Sitting: Walt Chapple, Les Bybee, Owen Ritter, Hal Bybee. Front: Stan Bybee. (Photos courtesy of Lila Skinner)



Milo Ward Church



Shelton Is Special

By Edith Lovell

Shelton is not a town, nor a place on the map, not a mail drop. It is no longer a meeting place for Shelton L.D.S. Ward members. The historic rock church is now privately owned.

Shelton is more aptly described as a neighborhood, but it has a history and continuity of community spirit equalled by few areas in the valley. Shelton people turn out for weddings, funerals, quiltings, and help-thy-neighbor projects. Shelton has a warmth that stays in the hearts of those who leave, to the extent that some who have been away for decades still refer to it as home.

Willow Creek runs through Shelton, the trappers called it Gray's Creek, and it was a favorite beaver stream. Jim Bridger trapped here, and Beaver Dick Leigh and many other mountain men. Indian trails led from the creek to the South Fork of Snake River. In the 1870s, cattle ranchers George Heath and Orville Buck homesteaded along the creek. Other cattlemen joined them, including the John Heath, R.W. Wright, Charles Martin, Henry and Robert Sermon, Tom Edwards, Pete Chambers and other families. In 1877, an Indian scare sent settlers to Fort Hall for safety. The following year, Bannocks held a war dance in the first big bend on Willow Creek. George Heath had lived among the Indians, and quieted the panic of the neighbors. In 1879, Jennie Beam taught school in the Buck home; she was followed by Robert Sermon as a teacher.

The early 1880's brought new families: the Weaverling, Davies, Cleverly, Burtenshaw, Carlyle, Barnes, Davis and Lee. In 1884 neighbors built a log schoolhouse. Willow Creek L.D.S. Branch was organized in 1885, with Jesse Cleverly as presiding elder. The Swedish family of Nels Nelson came in 1886.

1888 was a great year, bringing new homesteaders—E.H. and Horace Egan, Joe Bear, Ed Brown, John Johnson and the Cleggs. Newlyweds John and Josephine Newman arrived, in time for the 4th of July celebration at the Heath home. John Shelton Howard came in 1889 and shared John Johnson's timber



claim.

Idaho became a state in 1890, and the David Ririe and Frank Cleverly families arrived, followed in 1891 by the Frank Rysets, the Joseph Hyrum Lovells, the Edward Morgans and the Willard Moores. Willard Moore donated a large lot for a cemetery. Francis Ryset donated a lot for a school, and the neighbors floated logs down the South Fork of Snake River to build a school in the eastern part of the community.

Shelton L.D.S. Ward was created on August 14, 1892, from the eastern part of Willow Creek Ward. John Shelton Howard was named bishop. In 1893, neighbors and members pooled their work and their means to build a frame chapel on ground donated by Ed Brown. The church became the community center and was said to have "the best dance floor in the valley."

Many came in the years that followed: the Frank Brown, A.W. Brown, John T. Moore, J.R. Miskin, James Albert Fer-

guson, Charles Cole, Thomas Williams families and others. In 1909, work began on a new rock chapel, built of native stone from Willow Creek Canyon. It was dedicated in 1914. Many good bishops served after Bishop Howard: Edmond Lovell, W.F. Burtenshaw, W.J. Sperry, Lynn F. Brown, Melvin Cleverly, Clyde Burtenshaw and Wayne Johnson.

In 1976, in a realignment of boundaries, Shelton L.D.S. members were assigned to Clark and Ririe wards. Those assigned to Clark were designated Shelton-Clark ward members. Though efforts were made to keep the well-kept, sturdy rock church for a community center and a museum, it was sold. It is listed in the *National Register of Historic Places* and in a *Guidebook to Idaho Architecture*. It has sheltered those who were troubled or grieved, and it has echoed with joy and inspiration and faith, and is still a treasure to those who still remember Shelton as "home."

Iona

In 1883, Mormon pioneers settled along the natural stream of Sand Creek, with "Big Hill" to the east, and sage-brushed land to the north, west and south. These homesteaders of deep religious faith, gave their immediate attention to shelters and homes for their families, crops for themselves and their stock, and water for their farming endeavors. Having come from areas where the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints was an everyday part of their lives, they yearned for an organized branch of their Church for Sand Creek.

The "Wagon Box Prophecy" still remembered and revered as part of Iona history, was spoken June 17, 1884, by Apostle Wilford Woodruff, President of the Council of the Twelve. Woodruff and Heber J. Grant, another general authority, were visiting branches of the church in the north, when John Norton, mounted on horseback, sought them to establish a unit of faith at Sand Creek. Norton found them crossing the Snake River, and after introducing himself and his mission, found they were on their

way to meet with the Saints at Sand Creek. There was no building to meet in, so a wagon box, ready to haul logs from the mountains, was placed on the ground for a rostrum. The audience of Saints gathered round, sitting on the ground, on saddles, on whatever was comfortable. Times were hard for these pioneering Saints—they did not have reserves of food or money, they had to produce to survive. Woodruff and Grant knew this. Apostle Woodruff rose from the improvised rostrum to face and speak with the little gathering. He spoke with inspiration and prophetic seership:

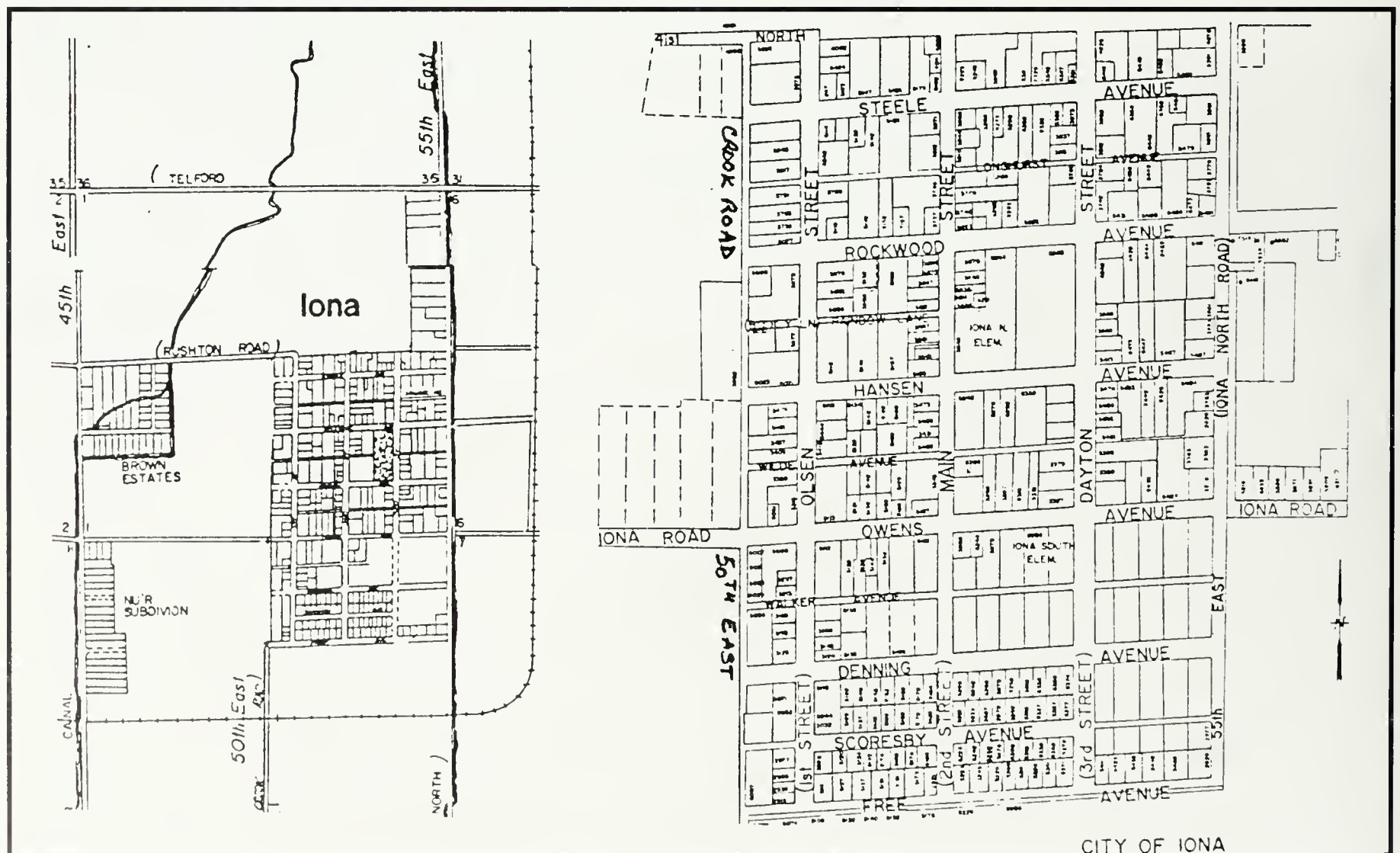
"Be not disheartened, be not discouraged, because God's blessing is upon this land. It will be only a little time before there will be prosperous and happy settlements of Latterday Saints here. You feel that you have gone away from your friends, and you are almost out of this world, but it will be only a short time when you will have a meeting house, and a school house, and all of the facilities here that you had at home before you came here. God will bless and multiply the land." Woodruff added that he saw the promise of fertile fields, flowers and trees; fine homes, schools and churches

dotting the landscape; and temples erected "in the name of the living God." Hearts were lighter after that meeting. The encouragement and promises the Saints had been given soothed them and there was now an Iona Branch of the Latter-Day Saints Church.

The town of Iona, the name means beautiful (and it is), was platted in 1886 on 160 acres. Iona townsite was recorded at Blackfoot, Bingham County, Idaho on October 24, 1891. The county surveyor divided Iona into ten acre blocks, then each block was divided into eight lots. Streets were six rods wide. There have been subsequent annexations of land.

Homes, to begin with, were wagons, some turned upside down (a lean-to to live under), willow huts (willows came from the banks of Sand Creek), dugouts in hills and in the flat ground (big cellar rooms.) Then came log cabins. The first, built by Cadwallender Owens, was not only a home, but a gathering place for Sunday School and church meetings. The cabin home built by Ole Owens, as he was called was where the first school was held.

Early water used for irrigation of crops came from the natural streams of



Sand Creek. Often natural streams dried up, and when streams dried up, so did crops. Pioneers, to be insured of irrigation water, had to divert water from the Snake River into natural streams and into artificial channels (ditches and canals), the digging of which was back-breaking and time-consuming. In Iona, the natural streams were all branches of Sand Creek. Eagle Rock Canal, Anderson Canal, Hillside Canal, Senter Ditches and the irrigation companies operating and maintaining them—Snake River Water Company, Eagle Rock and Willow Creek Water Company, Farmer's Progress Canal Company and presently, the Progressive Irrigation District—provided combinations of natural and artificial channels for water to Iona.

The farming crops could be planted only after the sagebrush had been broken and grubbed from the land, piled



Cadwallender Owen's log cabin (Photo courtesy of ZoAnn Simmons)

Ole Owen's Home (Photo courtesy of Daughters of Utah Pioneers)



and burned. The brush was also used as fuel in stoves and fireplaces. Wheat, barley, oats, corn, wild hay and potatoes were the first irrigated crops grown. Eventually Iona added to the agricultural economy. The Iona beet dump received sugar beets by the wagon loads in the early 1900's. After arrival at the dump, the beets were dumped into railroad cars and hauled to the Utah-Idaho Sugar Factory in Lincoln—saving the horse-drawn trucks a long trip. The su-

Ten head of horses helped Bruce and Mary Olsen move their house in 1919.
(Photo courtesy of Keith Olsen)



Old time wheat harvesting was a big operation, as the photo by Reed Olsen, longtime farmer on Rt. 1, attests. The string of draft animals consisted of five spans of horses, six abreast, with three in the lead, thirty-three animals in all. The photo above was taken in 1918 at the Martin Flat Dry Farming operation

twelve miles east of Iona, southwest of the present site of Ririe Dam. In the background of the lead team can be seen Table Rock—present site of the Ririe Dam. Wally Owens was the driver, and T.E. Olsen, the manager. (Photo courtesy of Jerry Owens)



Pictured are Croft's sheep and shearing corrals east of Iona in about 1955. (Photo courtesy of Wylie Snarr)

gar beet era ended in 1979 when the factory closed.

Horses and dairy cattle came with the early pioneers. Sheep and beef cattle grew to herds and operations where the livestock would be turned out on summer range in late spring and rounded up in the fall—either being sold at that time or wintered over (necessitating the feeding of hay.) The Iona Sheep Company at the turn of the century, had sheep numbering well over 20,000 head. There have been chicken and turkey farms in Iona. The Iona Fox Farm developed the Platinum fox—and when in 1949 the snow reached the top of the fox pens, and the foxes climbed out and ran loose in Iona, the townspeople helped catch them and return them to their pens.

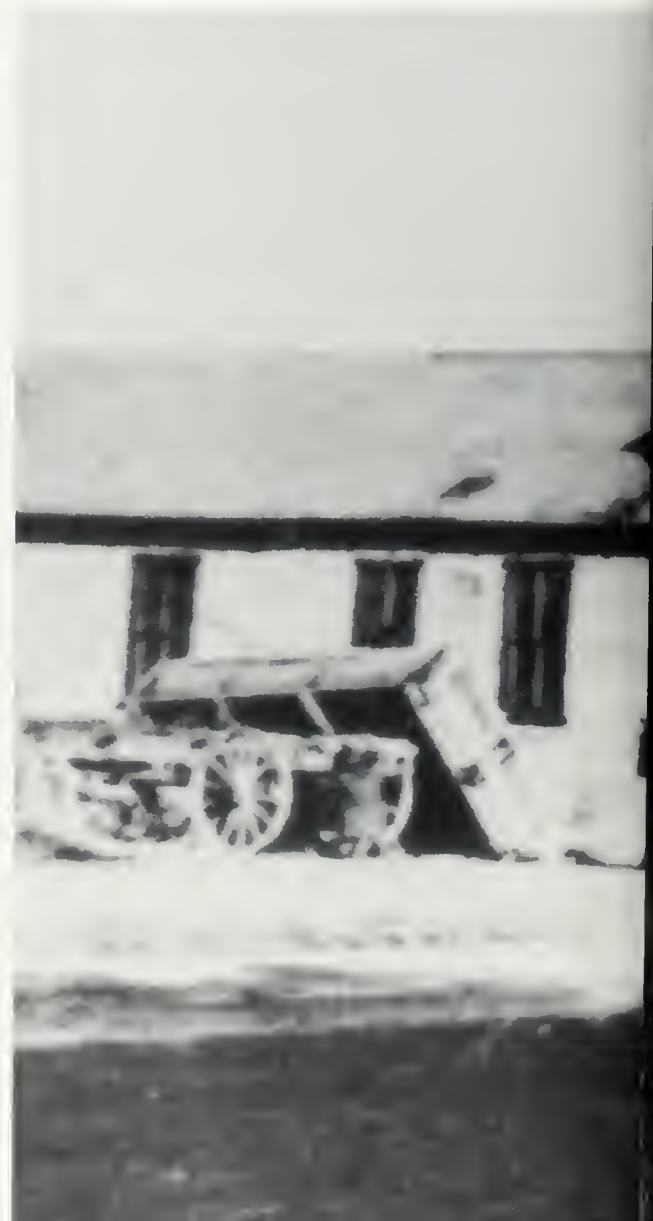
After Iona townsite had been laid out, the settlers started building businesses, as well as homes, churches and schools. Iona's Main Street, with its sandstone and frame buildings, had a blacksmith shop, pool hall and confectionery, post office, Iona Merc (Old Rock Store), and Sheldon Cutter, Gene Olsen and Keith Olsen sitting on sacked wheat in 1939. Keith Olsen from the top of Sperry Elevator took a picture of sacked grain behind Midland. (Photos courtesy of Keith Olsen)





granary. The main street itself was mud in winter and dust in summer—cinders from the sugar factory and pumice were put down to try to remedy the situation. The Old Rock Store, built in 1897 out of sandstone rocks quarried behind second hill, was one of the largest mercantile businesses in the area. The upper story was the largest hall in Iona—basketball games, dances and parties (even a rollerskating rink was tried) have all been held at the Merc. The first Iona telephone was at the Merc. Adults were not its only customers. Children bought such delectable “penny candies” as dark secrets, jaw breakers, lucky bits (a pink one meant a free one), dumbbells (an all day sucker with candy on each end) and licorice ropes. The Iona Merc is open today. Dances are still held upstairs and wistful memories of what it was like back then haunt the air. Confectioneries, lumber and hardware stores, service stations, groceries, cafes (Do Drop Inn of yesterday year, Ernie’s of today), bil-

Pillsbury Mills, Inc. in Iona; Float in the War Bonnet Round Up Parade, 1913 (Photos courtesy of Keith Olsen)
Iona Merc built in 1897;
Iona Main Street 1920 (Photos courtesy of Daughters of Utah Pioneers)





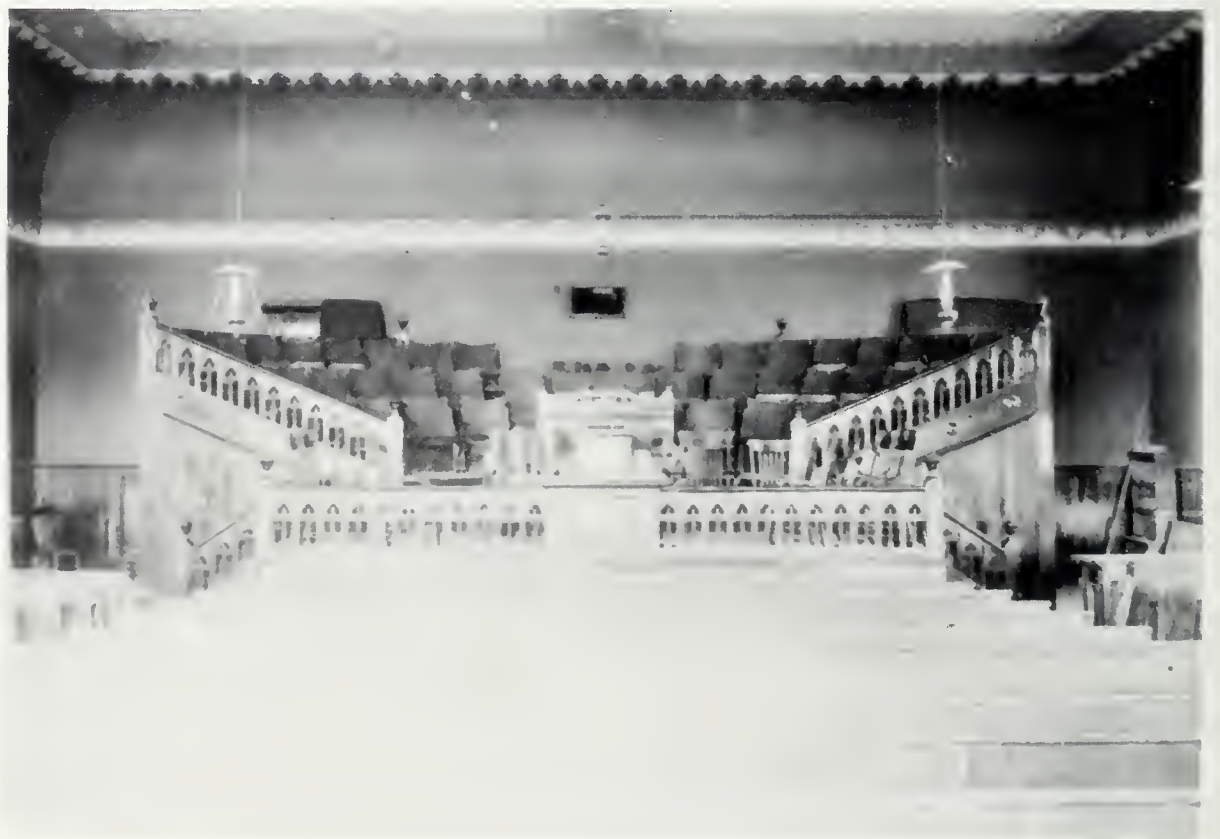


Second L.D.S. Rock Church and interior (Photos courtesy of Daughters of Utah Pioneers)

liard shops were and are part of Iona's economic history. Thunder Ridge on "Big Hill" provides county recreation.

Iona's first combination church and school stake center (now one of the oldest buildings in Bonneville County) was built from sandstone cut and hauled from second hill in 1887-1888. In 1894, a new wing was added to the original 24x40 foot structure (providing three more classrooms.) This beautiful old rock church is now known as the Stanger Memorial Art Gallery. Restored and refurbished by members of the Bonneville Art Association, it houses a permanent art gallery and studio for meetings.

Iona celebrated its Centennial in 1983. The celebration included a Kick-off Centennial ball, Centennial Teen Dance, Big Fish Contest, Art Exhibits, Centennial VIP Dinner, Restore the "I" on Iona Hill, Three Day Celebration,



Centennial Sunday Evening Service, Historical Exhibit, History Book, Centennial Quilt, Commemorative Coins plus Fund Raising Activities. (For a comprehensive history of Iona, *Iona Centennial Book 1883-1983* is recommended.)



Iona Stake House; Bonneville Art Association's Annual Art Show at Stanger Memorial Gallery. Seated left to right: Vicki Baldwin, Zenna Longhurst, Lois Steele, Tony Browning, Kathryn Browning, Denise Nelson and Ramona Horton. A place where artists and art lovers meet.



Farming skyline in Iona (Photo by Afton Bitton)



Lincoln

A number of Latter-day Saints who located southwest of Iona built a school house in their district in 1899. Distance, as in many of the original pioneer schools, was the main factor for building the school. Walking, riding on horseback or in wagons or sleighs were the means of travel. At first Lincoln was called Centerville.

In 1903 Lincoln was selected as a site for the Utah Sugar Factory. A contract for the factory construction was let in March 1903, and the cornerstone was

A mountain of sugar beets and the Utah-Idaho Sugar Factory of Lincoln in the early 1950's. (Photos by Robert Bower)





Present day Lincoln School buildings and Evans Grain landmark the community. (Photos by Alice Horton) The steel-band-

ed brick smokestack and the large U and I juice storage tank were landmarks in the past. (Photo by Robert Bower)



laid April 4, 1903. L.D.S. President Joseph F. Smith was the principal speaker at the cornerstone laying ceremony. An estimated forty-five hundred people attended. The factory was completed in October, 1903, at a total cost of \$750,000. Its processing capacity was rated at 600 tons during the first growing season. The new company had beet purchase contracts with six hundred and twenty-eight growers for thirty-six tons of beets which produced, after processing, 73,304 bags of sugar. Heber Austin, superintendent of the factory, had trees planted all along the streets and around the company's property.

As the population grew, a branch of the Mormon Church was organized as part of the Iona Ward. This branch then became Lincoln Ward with Heber Austin as Bishop.

Church, school and the sugar factory were the community centers of Lincoln. Church and school attended to the spiritual and educational needs, the sugar factory to the economic needs. The sugar industry provided farmers with a dependable cash crop which fit well into crop rotation management. It produced the products of sugar, beet pulp, beet molasses and beet tops. Sheep, beef and dairy cattle were fed and fattened on beet pulp supplemented with beet tops. And it provided jobs to hundreds of local workers, an important source of taxes for local, state and national government.

When the Utah-Idaho Sugar Factory closed in 1980, part of Eastern Idaho's heritage and economy closed also.

Church and school are still community centers in Lincoln. Evans Grain eleva-

tors stand beside the old factory smokestack. There are quick-stop grocery stores and the residents still have some of the prettiest flower gardens in Bonneville County, one can see.

Pictured is when 500,000 bushels of corn were brought in by rail from Nebraska via the government storage problem. Three hundred rail cars brought maize to Evans Grain. (Photo by Bower)



Ammon

Ammon, an outgrowth of Iona, was originally known as Iona South. In 1891 the 1889 South Iona L.D.S. Branch was organized into Ammon Ward. (The man Ammon in *The Book of Mormon*, son of King Mosiah was a great missionary to the Lamanites).

The early settlers of Iona South were, as many of the early settlers of Bonneville County, Mormon pioneers. The Latter Day Saints Church had a guiding influence on the community from its be-

ginning.

Early religious instruction and gatherings were in homes. From homes to chapels, to stakehouses, Ammon's Mormon population has nurtured its religious beliefs.

The L.D.S. Seminary in Ammon was one of the first in Eastern Idaho. Idaho Falls had been offered the program because of its two ward status, but firm opposition to the teaching of religious subjects as part of the school curriculum, squelched the offer. Ammon school board members—Joseph Anderson, Roy Southwick, Arthur Ball, John Blatter, Leonard Purcell and Parley Hansen—and town residents welcomed the proposed program. With its proximity to school buildings and church, the ward

recreation hall scout room seemed the perfect seminary classroom. Volunteer help enlarged then helped furnish the room. Old Testament, New Testament and Church History were the classes taught. There are seminary programs at the three Bonneville County high schools—Bonneville High, Idaho Falls High and Skyline High—presently. L.D.S. seminaries have had the largest attendance in the #91 School District. There were at one time Catholic seminaries in #91. The seminary buildings are separate from the main high school buildings and the classes taught are elective with no school credit given.

Al Owen had passed through the Ammon area before it was opened up for settlement on his travels to Leesburg.



Ammon Latter-Day Saint Chapel 1913 (Photo courtesy of Norma Faust)



Josephine Andrews remembers the dirt roof leaked in the spring in this log house.

Idaho, where he panned for gold. In 1885 when the area opened for settlement, the Owens grandfather, father and sons settled at Ammon (Iona South.) They homesteaded close together—Indians, though not the threat of ride ‘em up, shoot ‘em up days, were in the area and families with women and children, often left alone when the men were working in the fields or on ditches, were necessarily wary.

As more families settled—Empeys, Rawsons, Hiatts, Ellingfords, Williams,

They would put buckets on their beds to catch the drips.

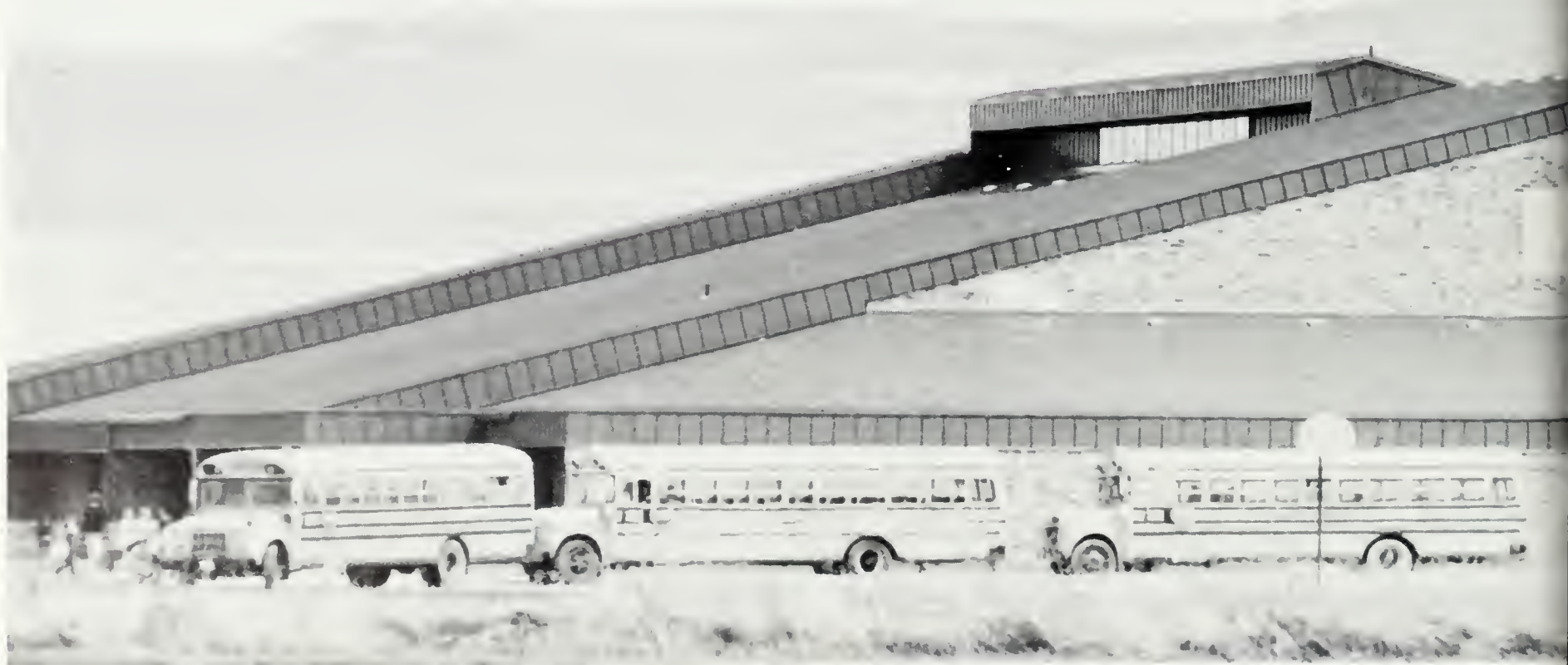
Hayes, Southwicks and Andersons—schooling for the children began—held in homes at first, schooling, education, has been a driving force in the Ammon community. In 1898 the first log school and church was constructed with cut timbers hauled from the hills. In 1900 the frame building known as Old Hall was erected near the log school. With its musicians’ and caller’s platform on the south side wall, stage and good dance floor, Old Hall had multiple recreational uses for church, school and community.



Pictured is Josephine Andrew’s family inside their log house. Her stepfather plays a fiddle while her mother and half sister listen. (Photos courtesy of Josephine Andrews)

Through the years, brass bands, orchestras, musicians with accordions and fiddles, square dancers and callers, vocal soloists and groups, holiday plays and commemorative programs have filled Old Hall.

Two-story brick buildings came next, the first in 1904; the second became an accredited two year high school in 1922. The stucco Ozone school building was moved from the hills in the 30’s to alleviate the overcrowding. The thirty by sixty



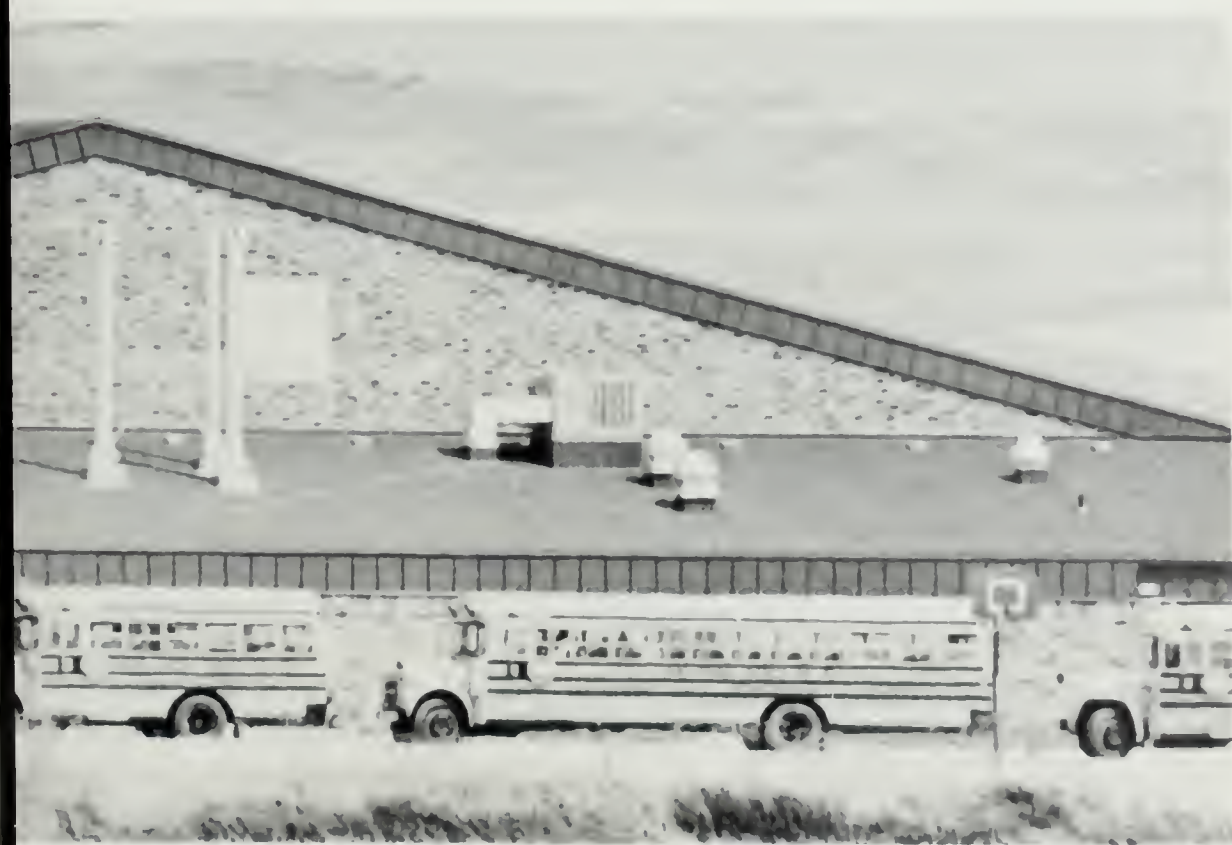


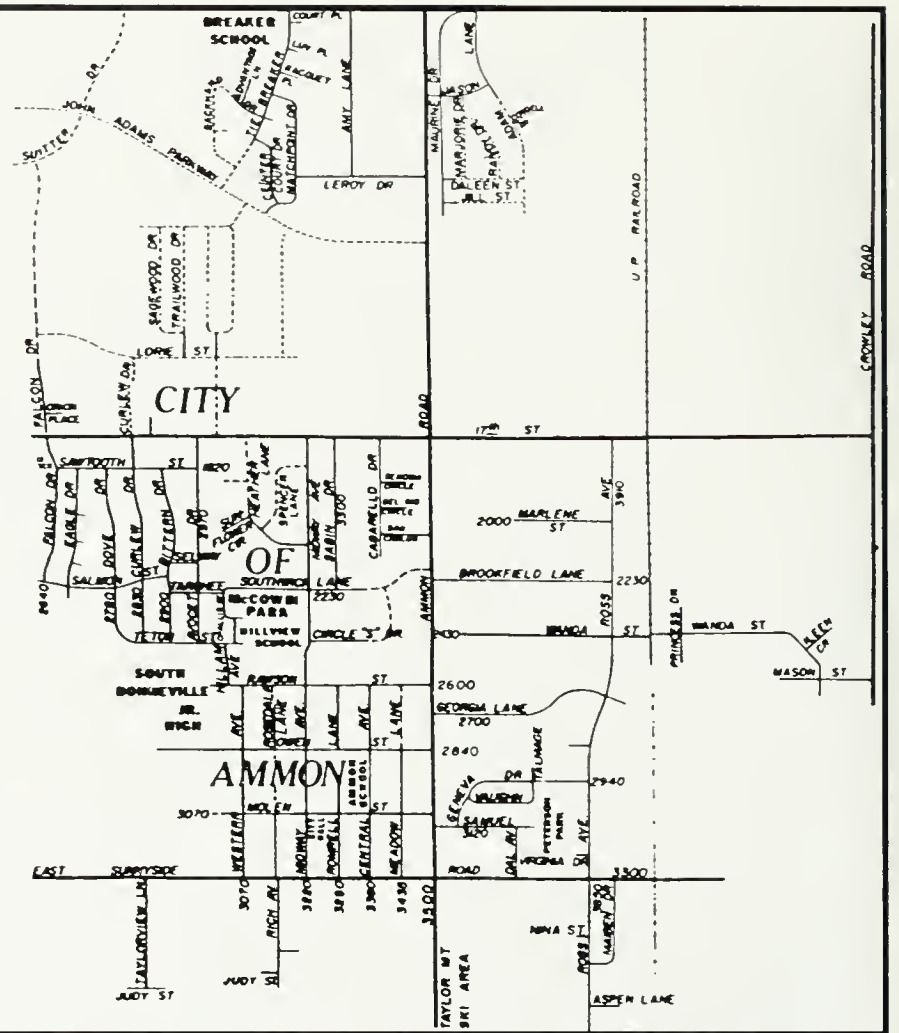
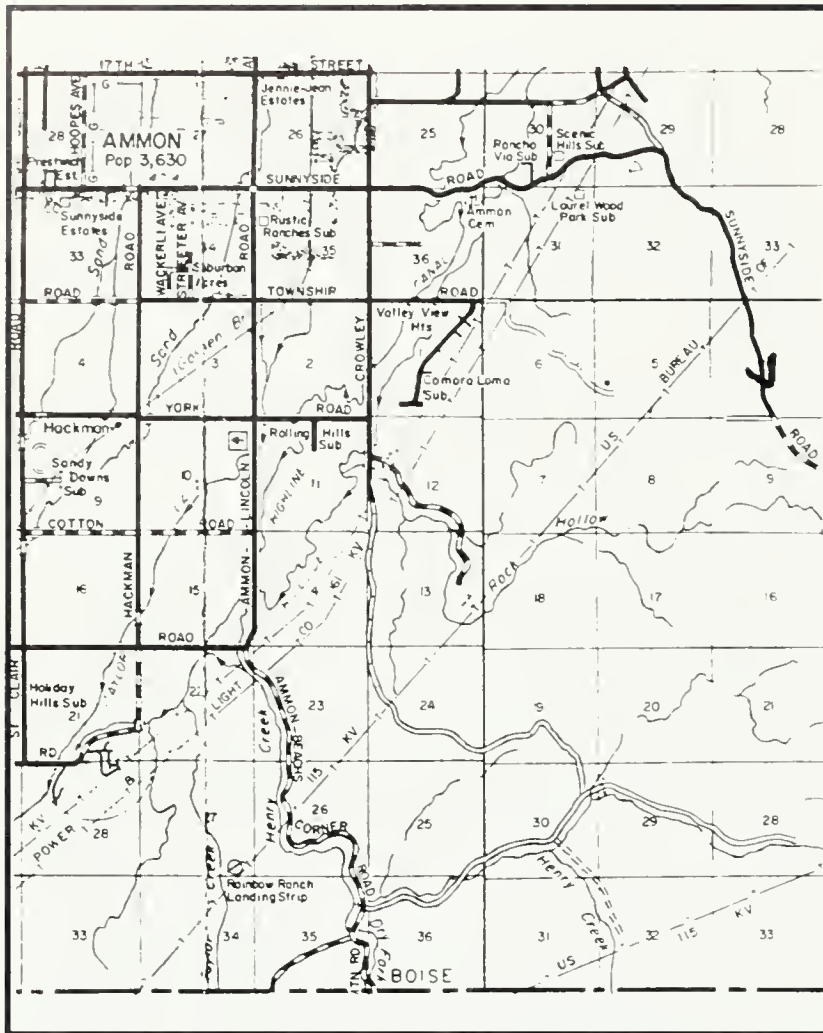
One hundred and ten foot long beams swing slowly into place on the construction site of Ammon Junior High. (Photos by Robert Bower)

School District #93's Tiebreaker Elementary School serves the towns of Ammon and Lincoln. School buses take children to and from school.

chapel in the Ozone building was used for a small gymnasium—a single row of seating on each side. The big fire that rocked the community of Ammon in 1936 destroyed the high school and the new gymnasium. The gym, approved by the PWA, had a roof, four walls, a sub-floor and baskets when the first scheduled home game with Rigby was played. The coach and players marked lines on the subfloor with shoe polish for the big game. Floor boards had been delivered, but not in time to be put down. The flooring was stacked behind the furnace room to protect it from the inclement weather. The Ammon team lost the game that night, and they lost their new gym, too. Afton Barrus, the coach, was the first to spot the fire. Only the Stucco Ozone building was saved (by spraying it with water from Sand Creek.) The fire gutted the buildings and the heat from the burning tar melted the girds holding the roof of the new gym.

The PWA helped with the cleanup, another project was approved and a new school was begun.





James C. Owen donated the ground for the Ammon townsite in 1899; Ammon was incorporated in 1905. The townsite was comprised of one hundred and sixty acres divided into sixteen large blocks having eight lots in each. Ammon became a second-class city in 1961.

Sidehill and Gardner canals water the Ammon area. Ammon pioneer men worked for and on the Eagle Rock-Willow Creek Project. Until canals were dug, or wells were dug, water was carried in barrels from little Sand Creek or when it was dry from the Snake River or the puddles on Big Sand Creek. Snow was melted for water in the wintertime. John Empey told of his first well in Miranda Stringham's *Old Ammon*. Empey supervised construction of the Eagle Rock and Willow Creek Canals. Empey hired Cal Zidings to dig the Empey well. Zidings was paid \$1.00 a day, part of the payment was in deer meat. He worked inside the well filling a cut-off twenty gallon barrel with dirt and rocks. When the barrel was full, Zidings would wiggle the rope and Empey would pull it up by hooking the other end of the rope to a horse. The rope ran from the well bucket through a pulley to the horse. Zidings dug down to eighty-three feet

when he struck solid lava. But he could hear flowing under the lava rock. By drilling holes in the rock and then blasting it, water was found.

Phineas Ball of Ammon was the first ditch rider for the Sand Creek irrigation diversions and served for many years. There was an area east of Ammon



In November of 1987, Robert Bower, Post-Register photographer, caught Jeremy Sorensen, left, and Jonathon Ne-

beker peering into a canal culvert on Ammon road.

known as Hog Holler. The Joseph Crow family and others lived there. A man named Asdown had hogs, and when he called to them for dinner or at them for running loose and eating the neighbor's swill, his hog calling could be heard down the hollers. Hog Holler school and church became Pleasant View school and church. Horace Crow was the first Pleasant View Branch president. Dances and socials doubled up with school in the building. Eventually the residents moved away or eased into Ammon. Pleasant View joined Ammon in 1921.

Farms and ranches with crops and livestock supported the majority of the early 20th Century settlers. The economy was aided also by businesses and professions. Midwives Rosa Owen and Annie Hiatt served the community well. Hiatt ran the Ammon Maternity House. Ammon Mercantile at the turn of the century sold everything from shoestrings to stock salt to molasses in barrels, and dry goods. Al Carter was the village blacksmith in 1904. Judge Henry Martin, Dr. Titus W. McCowin and Anton Pederson, Bonneville County School Superintendent, were noted professional



men.

An electric line was run from Idaho Falls to Ammon in 1912; the Oregon Short Line Railroad came in 1918; the village well was dug in 1946; and a postal sub-station was added to Kelly's Market in 1954.

Pictured are Josephine Andrew's sisters and family in front of the tent they lived in when working at the sugar factory in Lincoln. (Photo courtesy of Andrews)

The Ammon of today has kept record of its past and planned for its future. The original townsite has had sub-divisions added to it. It is the second largest city in Bonneville County.



Marcine Anderson Pierson's mother traded one gallon of gooseberries in August for seventy-five cents in May to buy cloth for Marcine's eighth grade graduation dress. Marcine holds Suzanne Fannesbeck's painting of the dress (Photo by Quincy Jensen).



Old Church and Daughters of Utah Pioneers Memorial in Ammon

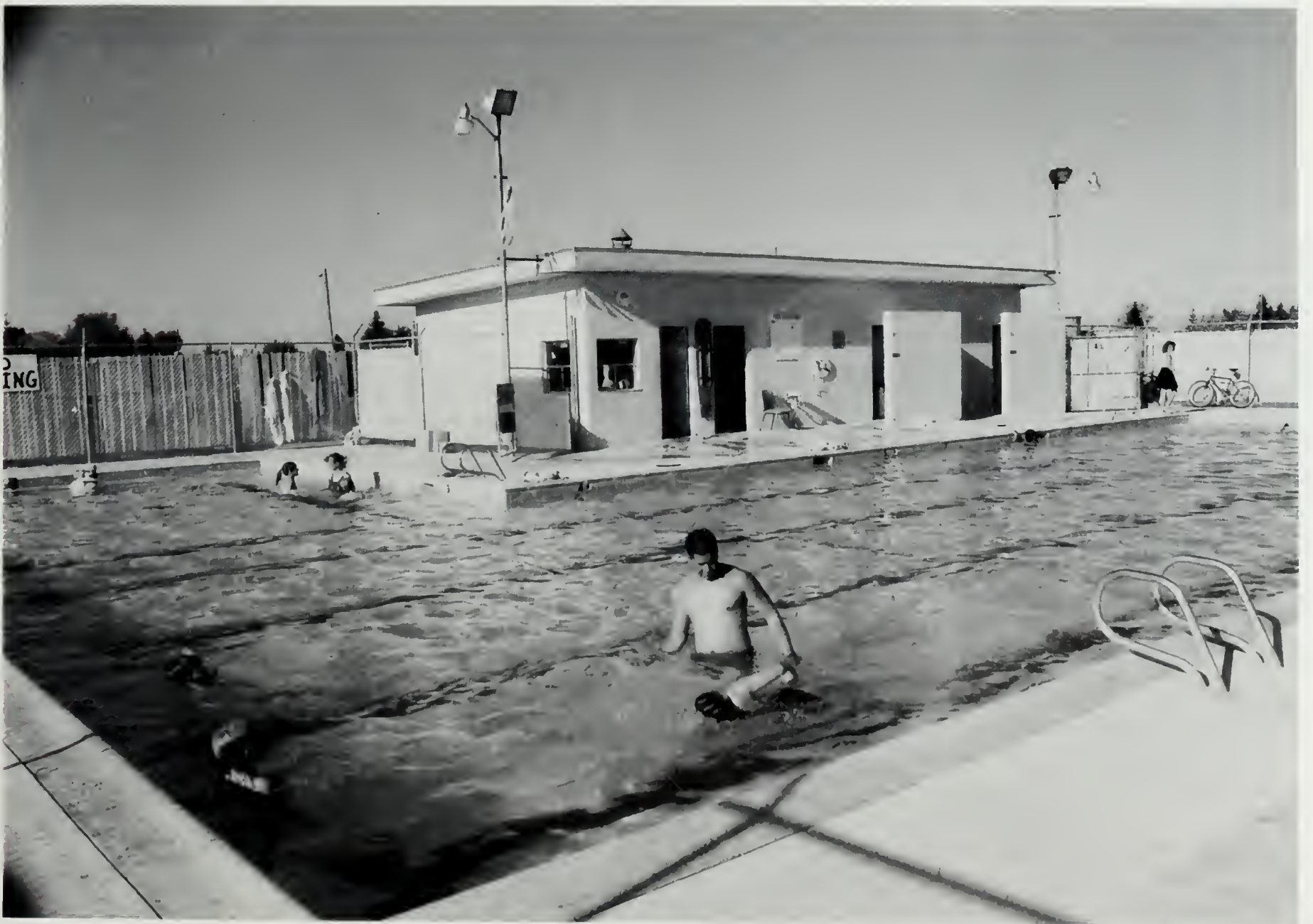
Sexton Dorian Crow lowers the flag. (Photos by Quincy Jensen)





Ammon entrepreneurs from left to right: Nathan, Curtis, Ryan and Mathew study their surefire money-making scheme. The worms were certainly plump and fresh. (Photo by Robert Bower)

Ammon City Pool at McCowin Park offers summer swimming lessons and summer heat relief for area residents. On July 4th it offers "free swim" to holiday participants. (Photo by Quincy Jensen)



Idaho Falls

By Joe Marker

Although there was a ferry in operation in the summer of 1863 nine miles north of here, it wasn't until the following year in the winter of 1864-65 when the stream was frozen over that J.M. "Matt" Taylor built his log bridge across the Snake River launching the townsite of Idaho Falls.

Both the ferry and bridge were used to get wagons, families, horses, cattle and supplies across the river so that they could proceed on their way to the newly-discovered gold fields in Montana and North Idaho.

Taylor, a Missourian who was freighting into Montana, and Robert Anderson, a businessman, had the foresight to realize that progress demanded a bridge in place of the slow, dangerous ford a few miles above here, or even the ferry. Taylor observed that the narrow lava rock walls of the gorge formed a natural bridge site. He brought hewn logs

Lava Rock Abutments (Photo by Quincy Jensen)

from Beaver Canyon, a distance of nearly 100 miles. When the river froze over that winter of 1864 he proceeded to build the first bridge to span the Snake River in this area. It was completed in the spring of 1865.

Known as Taylor's Crossing, it was located about halfway between the present steel bridge on Broadway and the railroad span downstream to the south. Taylor charged a toll of \$2.50 to make the crossing with a

The real Falls (Photo courtesy Joe Marker)



wagon. It wasn't long after the bridge was built that Taylor and Anderson set up a small store nearby. In 1865 Anderson and a brother, J.D. Anderson, obtained a charter to operate a bank in connection with the little store. Thus came into being Anderson Brothers Bank, the first chartered bank in this state and whose charter later formed the foundation for the present First Security Bank of Idaho. The two-story frame building also housed a post office.

Erected near the toll bridge on the east bank of the river were three cabins, one of which was used for a larger store. The others were for an eating house and a livery stable.

From this meager beginning the community's business district spread to the southeast along what was known as Front Street and later Eagle Rock Street. All that remains of that street is a monument in the shape of an eagle sculpted by Allen Haroldson, and dedicated by Joe L. Marker during a public program marking the observance of Idaho Falls Centennial Plus 20 in 1985. The monument is situated behind the present public library to mark the location of the street.

Most of the places of business were situated in one-story frame buildings, but there were also a smattering of one- and two-story rock buildings. There was also an occasional section of board sidewalk along the dirt street.

Among the early day establishments doing business along this dusty

street were several restaurants, a grocery store, meat market, a jewelry store, book store, drug store, notion store and several saloons, one of which was owned and operated by

Dick Chamberlain. Chamberlain was so well respected in the community that when he died the places of business closed, and a community band led the funeral procession to the ceme-



Eagle Rock Eagle



Eagle Rock Street at time of demolition (Photos by Robert Bower)

tery. James Wilbur operated the meat market. Frank Rumsey was the druggist. Alma Marker was owner of a book and music store located in a frame building around the corner on Capital Avenue, south of Eagle Rock Street near his frame home on Cliff Street where the City Electrical Building is now situated. The Burgess House later known as the Brooks Hotel occupied the southwest corner of Eagle Rock Street and South Capital Avenue. Next door to the west on Eagle Rock Street was the rock structure built around 1882 housing ZCMI (Zion's Cooperative Mercantile Institution), a branch of the Salt Lake City-based, Mormon-owned department store. It was managed here by a Mr. Wheeler and a Mr. Glenn, and was originally operated under their names. Julius and J.J. Johannesen were in charge of the banking business connected with the store. A large room on the second floor of the ZCMI building was used for a dance hall and later as a place for displaying furniture. The furniture was shipped from Salt Lake City and Ogden, Utah, having been dismantled there and then reassembled and set up here. Among the clerks in the store were Mrs. Alice Bybee Boomer, Mrs. Lulu Gleason Kerr, and two of the Mollen girls, Mrs. Joe Hurst and Mrs. Ran (Esther) Payne, Miss Jenny Lofgreen, and a Mr. Brant.

The name of the community was changed from Taylor's Crossing to Eagle Rock in June, 1872, after citizens thought the name Taylor's Crossing implied "a wide place in the road." They observed a massive rock in the middle of the stream being used by an American bald eagle for a nest to rear its young. This scene of nature suggested an appropriate name, and thus the village was christened "Eagle Rock".

Then in 1891, a group of professional land promoters from Chicago - Charles N. Lee, Willis G. Emerson, D.W. Higbee, J.B. Holmes and B. McCaffrey - of the Interior Land and Irrigation Company came out here and saw the possibilities of the area as the result of the abundance of fertile land and water. They decided to promote the town, but thought the name Eagle Rock wasn't appropriate for a place that was destined to become a metropolitan city of the west. So these promoters suggested that the name be changed to Idaho Falls even though there were only rapids in the river here at that time.

They submitted a petition to





Alma Marker's Music Store; American National Bank; Burgess Hotel Construction (Photos courtesy Joe Marker)



Bingham County commissioners (this area was then a part of Bingham County). An election was ordered held on July 22, 1891, in Eagle Rock. Results of the election showed the majority of voters favored the change in name. The commissioners passed a resolution ordering that the name be changed to Idaho Falls on August 26, 1891.

It wasn't until the city administration of Mayor Ed P. Coltman in 1909 that the dam and retaining wall were constructed by contractor William Walker Keefer along the old dry bed to make the forebay for the power plant, which brought about the beautiful falls in the river. Keefer's twin sons, Fred and Frank Keefer, who were born here in Eagle Rock, helped their father build the dam.

Since Idaho Falls became a city of the second class in April, 1900, the city has had 19 elected mayors. Prior to that time the community was governed by village boards. Nathan H. Clark was the first village board chairman beginning his tenure on

March 9, 1895. He was followed the next month by Robert Anderson. Thomas B. Shannon became village board chairman April 13, 1897. He was followed by George Chapin on April 13, 1898. Then Joseph A. Clark, son of Nathan H. Clark, became village board chairman April 12, 1899.

On April 6, 1900, Joseph A. Clark was elected the first mayor when Idaho Falls became a city of the second class with city councilmen, two being elected from each of the four wards in the city. Citizens also elected by ballot a city clerk and a city treasurer. Clark was elected mayor with 269 votes, having defeated Frank M. Bybee, a grocery store operator, who garnered 225 votes. The mayor's salary was set at \$250 for the ensuing year, and councilmen's salaries at \$25 a year. Edward J. Wilkinson was elected city clerk with 288 votes, defeating B.L. Hensley with 164 votes. Emma Hurst was elected city treasurer with 244 votes over Emma Reesor who

received 237 votes. Elected to the first City Council from the First Ward were William James Thomas with 117 votes, and W.A. Tyler with 99 votes. They defeated Robert Anderson who received 43 votes. In the Second Ward, Louis Elg with 82 votes, and Christian Plen with 80 votes, were elected. Plen won his post by a straw vote over J.A. Senter who also received 80 votes. The other candidate defeated in the Second Ward was Ed Fanning who garnered 75 votes. Fanning's son, E.W. Fanning served as mayor in more recent years. Voters chose Frank T. Martin with 125 votes and James Wierman with 102 votes, as councilmen in the Third Ward. They defeated Edward P. Coltman with 89 votes and B.J. Briggs with 88 votes. Coltman later became mayor and upon his death, the then president of the City Council, Louis Elg, took over the mayorship. C.D. Chapin was elected city engineer with 459 votes. Carlyle L. Pelot with 243 votes was elected police judge over H.L. Rogers with

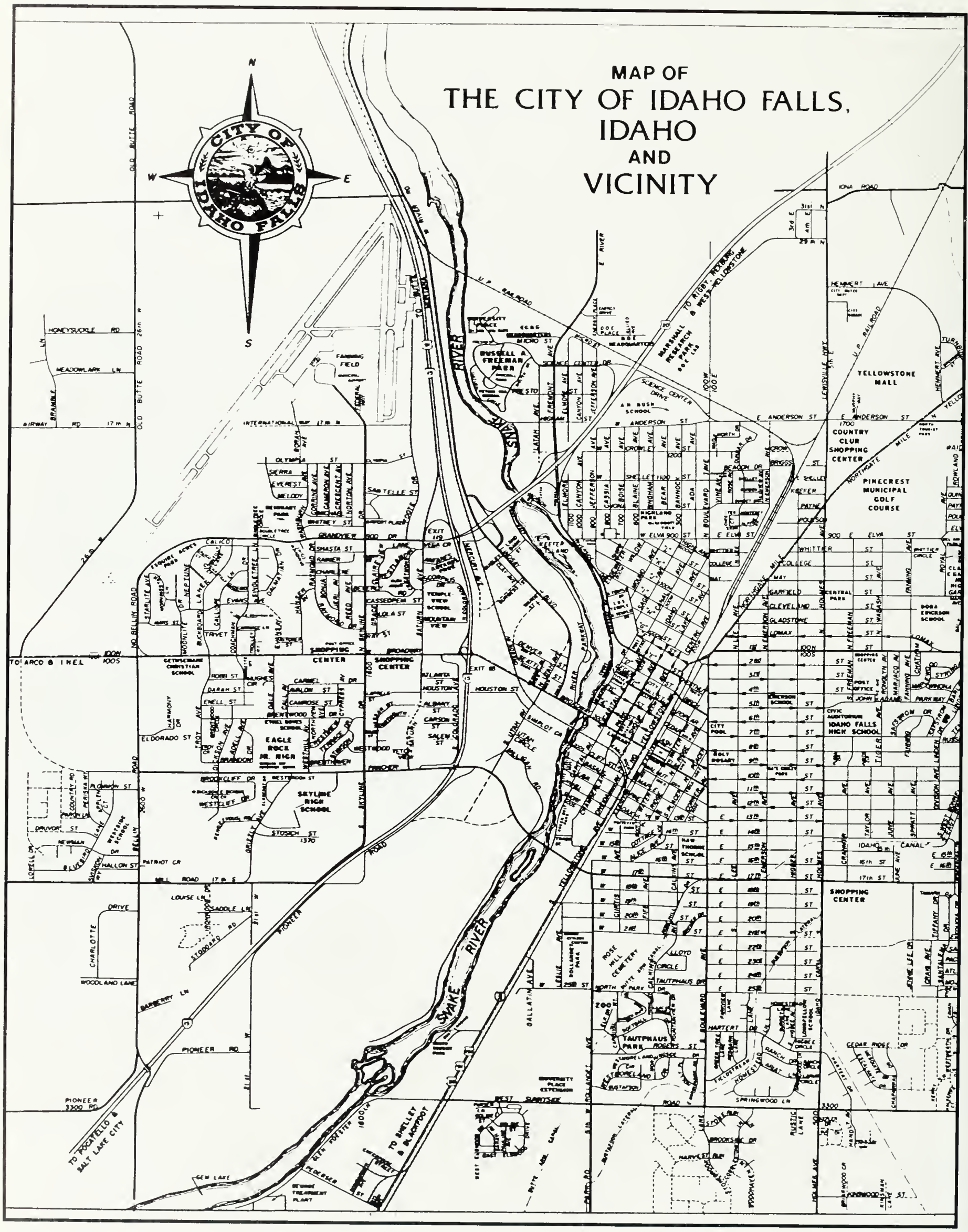


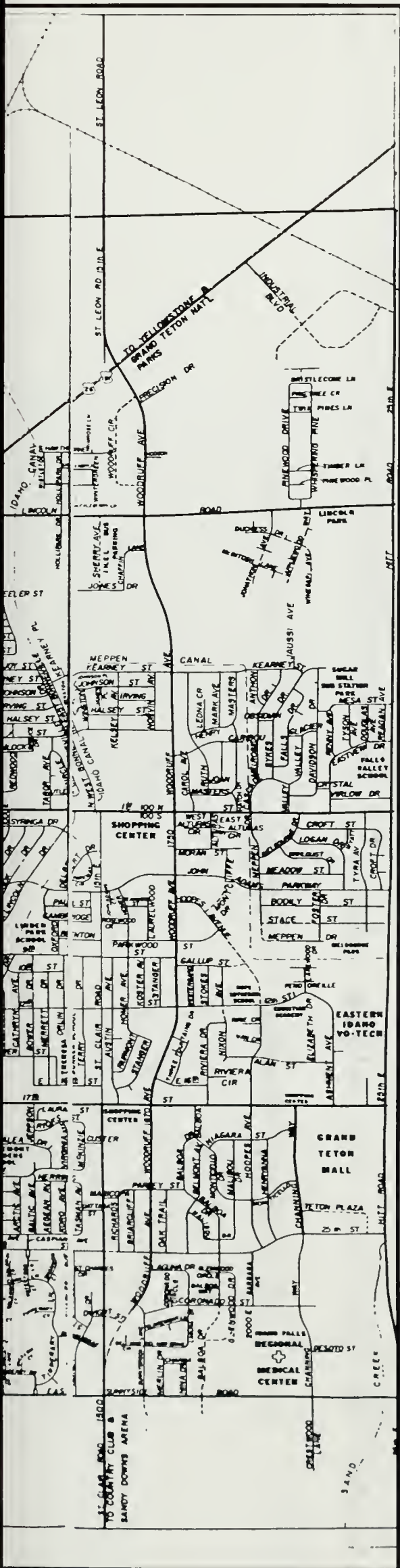


Skogg and Wallenstein Saloon; Wierman's Grocery; S.F. Taylor Real Estate and Insurance. (Photos courtesy Joe Marker)



MAP OF
THE CITY OF IDAHO FALLS,
IDAHO
AND
VICINITY





229 votes. City Clerk records show the new city officials were officially sworn into office on April 12, 1900, by W.H. Holden.

Those serving as mayor after Joseph A. Clark and the date they assumed office were: Bowen Curley, April 11, 1902; A.T. Shane, April 17, 1903; Edward P. Coltman, again April 23, 1909; Louis Elg, September

2, 1910; Bowen Curley, again April 21, 1911; Barzilla W. Clark, son of Joseph A. Clark and a brother of Nathan H. Clark, April 18, 1913; George W. Edgington, May 22, 1915; Henry W. Kiefer, August 3, 1917; Ralph A. Louis, Jan. 8, 1918; W.A. Bradbury, May 16, 1919; Ralph A. Louis, again May 20, 1921; Barzilla



William Walker Keefer Family (Photo courtesy Joe Marker)



Keefer's Island (Photo by Robert Bower)

W. Clark, again May 16, 1927; R.B. "Whitey" Ewart, December 28, 1936; Chase A. Clark, a brother of Barzilla W. Clark and also a son of Joseph A. Clark, May 7, 1937; E.W. Fanning, November 1, 1940; Thomas L. "Tom" Sutton, April 8, 1949; E.W. Fanning, again April 6, 1951; John B. Rogers, April 6, 1956; William J. O'Bryant, May 1, 1959; S. Eddie Pedersen, Jan. 12, 1963, and Thomas L. "Tom" Campbell, Jan. 5, 1978. Both Barzilla W. Clark and his brother, Chase A. Clark, later were elected governors of Idaho. Barzilla's son, Ferris H. Clark, was the developer of the Westbank Motel, Coffee Shop-Dining Room and Lounge on River Parkway.

All of the mayors were prominently identified with the growth and development of the city and were vitally interested in civic affairs. Their leadership helped to spur the city along and make it one of the most progressive cities in the Gem State.

In 1879 the Taylor Bridge owners agreed to give the Utah Northern Railroad (the forerunner to Union Pacific Railroad), 200 feet of right-of-way through the townsite, according to M.D. Beal's, *History of Idaho*. Beal relates in his book that O.K. Harkness, who owned the townsite of McCammon, wanted too much money for his land and so the railroad company decided against that location for its terminal. Pocatello was out of the picture then too because it was Indian land which created a legal problem in obtaining the necessary right-of-way.

So the railroad decided to establish its terminal here since the bridge owners were willing to give the necessary right-of-way. The terminal of the narrow-gauge Utah Northern Railroad was established here in 1879 and with it came a lively colony of railroad workers. Log dwellings sprang up and by 1882 the town boasted a population of 670 residents.

The town's first railroad depot was built on the north side of Eagle Rock Street. Some years later a larger facility was erected on West 13th Street and Eastern Avenue. On March 2, 1911, a new depot for the Oregon Shortline Railroad, as it was known then, was opened at the east end of C Street and Yellowstone Avenue, with a large freight building to the south between Broadway and A Street. The passenger depot served Idaho Falls until it was demolished in October, 1964. The freight depot was also

demolished. A combined passenger and freight depot at E. 25th Street adjacent to the railroad tracks replaced the C Street facility. In more recent years this facility was closed and a customer service center on Centre Avenue took its place.

First improvements in the town included clearing of the sagebrush, since it was believed to be a "fire hazard", building board sidewalks and digging a 50-foot deep town well.

The town had its boot hill cemetery on South Capital Avenue adjacent to the river near the community because it wasn't so easy and feasible to get a wagon or buggy and go way out into the country to bury their dead. Then as the community grew the town fathers issued an order that residents should remove the bodies of their dead and rebury them in the newly developed Rose Hill Cemetery.

It was in 1884 that The Idaho Register, the town's first newspaper, began publishing here. William E. Wheeler, a Vermonter, had come west four years earlier and started printing the newspaper July 10, 1880, at Blackfoot. He shipped his foot-powered press and other equipment by flat car to Eagle Rock, setting up shop in a frame building on the southeast corner of Cliff Street and South Capital Avenue. Ten years later in April, 1890, The Times came into being under the ownership and management of Sam Dennis and Rufus C. Bonney. After several changes in ownership in succeeding years The Times merged with The Idaho Register in 1920 becoming a semi-weekly, and six years later became the daily Times-Register. Another daily newspaper, The Morning Post, started publishing here in 1905. But constantly rising publishing costs and the depression brought on the selling of The Times Register's machinery and circulation lists to The Daily Post Nov. 1, 1931, creating The Post-Register, which has served the community since. At the time of this consolidation Edwin F. McDermott was publisher and general manager of The Post-Register, and M.B. Yeaman was the editor of The Times Register. In more recent years J. Robb Brady was publisher

O.S.L. Depot, Idaho Falls, Idaho (Photo courtesy Post-Register) Union Pacific Depot, 1964 (Photo courtesy Joe Marker) O.S.L. Depot, with C Street in the foreground (Photo courtesy John Beckman)







and editor, and John P. McDermott, general manager. Today Jerry M. Brady is the publisher and editor and John P. McDermott the general manager.

The first school here was held in the summer of 1882 and was taught by Mrs. Rebecca Mitchell, a Baptist missionary, in the old Reesor House and later in a room formerly used as a saloon on Eagle Rock Street. Boxes were used for desks and benches. Eagle Rock School District came into existence in April, 1882, and was formed by petition. It was called School District No. 9 of Oneida County and included practically all of the Snake River Valley now embraced in Bonneville County. It was the first school district organized

Top left: Old Idaho Falls (Photo courtesy Perk's) Below: Downtown Idaho Falls in 1950's (Photo courtesy Joe Marker) Right: Railroad bridge (Photo by Robert Bower)

north of Franklin, Oneida County.

In December, 1884, the first public school was opened in a one-room frame building which stood just south of where the present Bonneville Museum is now located on Eastern Avenue and Elm Street. When the townsite was platted in 1884 it was discovered that the school building stood in the middle of Elm Street. The old Central School grounds, embracing the block bordered by Elm Street and Walnut Street, Water Avenue and Ridge Avenue, was purchased and the old building moved to that site and another room was added to the old frame structure. This was later moved to Broadway and was used by the McMullin Heating and Plumbing Company. A bond issue was passed in 1882 which financed construction of the original portion of the old Central School building on the Water Avenue-Elm Street site.

In 1894 the Independent School

District was formed and a high school established in the Central School building. Bingham County commissioners (this area was then a part of Bingham County) appointed W.H.B. Crow, W.E. Wheeler, Joseph A. Clark, Joseph A. Smith, Bert Greenwell, and A.V. Scott as trustees of the new school district. In 1903 an annex was built onto the original school building and this was used as a high school through 1915. That same year a junior high school was organized in the city.

A Senior High School Spud Annual of 1915 noted that among the principals who began their public career as head of these schools were C.E. Arney, who later became immigration agent of the Great Northern Railroad; Dr. W.B. Wells, who later moved to Riverside, Calif., and A.G. Sears, who later became principal of the Adams School in Seattle, Wash. When Benjamin R. Crandall became



Superintendent of Schools in 1907, there was one school building, the Central, with 19 teachers and an enrollment of 738 students, of which 73 were in high school. By 1915, an enumeration showed 1,700 children of school age in the district, but with only 1,540 enrolled in actual attendance, 240 of whom were in high school. The teaching staff reached 51, which included regular substitutes.

Members of the school board during this period included Mrs. Elizabeth M. Wheeler, 1904-07; Fred L. Huston, 1904-1910; Bowen Curley, 1905-1908; Mrs. Adelia B. Scott, 1905-1908; M.B. Denlinger, 1906-1908, Mrs. Etta R. Platt, 1906-1909; T.I. Bubbell, 1907-1910; Mrs. Susan E. Mill, 1908-1914; N.D. McCutcheon, 1908-1914; R.T. Mitchell, 1909-1914; F.H. Churchill, 1910-1918, and Eugene Wright, 1910-1915.

The roster of the Idaho Falls High School Alumni Association in 1905 included Ethel Boyes who served as principal for many years of the original 4-room Emerson School on Emerson Avenue and 4th Street, and was honored in 1965 when a west side elementary school was named after her.

The second school building completed here was Riverside Elementary on Idaho Avenue dedicated Nov. 2, 1908, followed by Eastside Elementary on 14th Street dedicated Feb. 3, 1911; a small school building at Payne Siding in Sept., 1911; Eagle

Rock School on Chamberlain Avenue, dedicated Nov. 21, 1913; Idaho Falls High School on 7th Street and Boulevard in 1917, (this school later became Central Junior High School); the two-story Emerson School on 5th Street in 1929; O.E. Bell Junior High



Rebecca Mitchell School, 1882 (Photo courtesy District #91) Below: Central School (Photo courtesy Post-Register)



School on North Ridge Avenue in 1930; Hawthorne School on South Boulevard in 1937; A. H. Bush Elementary School, originally known as Whittier School, in 1954; Dora Erickson Elementary School on Cleveland Street, originally called Bel Aire School, in 1954; Linden Park

Elementary School on 9th Street, in 1955; Longfellow Elementary School on South Higbee Avenue, in 1957; Temple View School on Scorpius Drive, and Edgemont Gardens Elementary School on Azalea Drive, both in 1958; Clair E. Gale Junior High School on Garfield Street, Jan.

3, 1962; Theresa Bunker Elementary School on East 16th Street, in 1963; Ethel Boyes Elementary School on Brentwood Drive, in 1965; Skyline High School on Blue Sky Drive, in 1969, Eagle Rock Junior High School on Pancheri Drive, in September, 1975 and Westside Elementary School on Newman Drive on Oct. 30 1979. Eastern Idaho Technical College opened here as a consortium of high schools in 1968 on the North Yellowstone Highway. Two years later in 1970 land on 2259 E. 17th Street was noted by Aerojet General. The first building was erected on this campus in 1975, a year after John Christofferson became its director. It was known as Eastern Idaho Vocational Technical School, a name it acquired in 1972. The name was changed in 1989 to Eastern Idaho Technical College. The educational facility now has three buildings with a fourth one funded and in the planning stage today. There were 7,000 students at the school in 1988 compared with only 300 in 1974.

Thanks to the women, beautification got underway real early in Eagle

Eastside School shortly before it was demolished, 1975 (Photo courtesy Joe Marker); the second Idaho Falls High School (Photo courtesy Post-Register)





Hawthorne School on Boulevard, 1983 (Photo by Robert Bower)



Rock. The women organized the Village Improvement Society, elected Kate Curley President to work diligently for an improvement in the appearance of the community, according to David L. Crowder in his book, *Tales of Eastern Idaho*. The women took the lead and pitched in cleaning up the rubbish from streets and sidewalks, placing trash cans throughout the town and daring anyone not to use them. Came 1907, a 2 2/3 acres plot of ground bordered by 9th and 10th Streets and Emerson and Higbee Avenues, was purchased by the VIS for a park. The land was cleared and a garden of vegetables was planted. These were sold to help

Salisbury Building Construction



Broadway, left and Park, right, Idaho Falls



Broadway in 1903-04 (All photos this page courtesy of Joe Marker)

finance its beautification with the planting of trees, bushes and flowers. Bowen Curley, president of the American National Bank and husband of Kate Curley, paid for devel-

oping the landscape plans. The women planted trees in the center parks along C Street (now Constitution Way). They also cleared the canal banks of weeds and made a

number of other improvements.

In 1906 the VIS assumed the management of a hospital on C Street on the second floor of the old Mary's Cafe Building, and operated it until 1910. That year it was moved to the second floor of the Elg Building on Eagle Rock Street and South Capital Avenue. The VIS also opened a public library in the basement of the old First Baptist Church on Eastern Avenue. That hospital became known as Doctors Coulthard and Cline Hospital in 1910 since they had secured a lease on the building and had newly furnished and equipped the facility.

Then in 1915, Doctors C.M. Cline and A.R. Soderquist built the General Hospital (now Riverside Apartments on Idaho Avenue and K Street) which was the first building erected for that explicit purpose. This facility was maintained until 1923 when the LDS Hospital was completed on Memorial Drive. Another hospital called the People's Hospital was established in 1916 by Doctors J.O. Mellor and David McDonald on E Street in a building that later



L.D.S. Hospital (Photo courtesy Joe Marker) Bottom photo: Riverview Hospital (Photo courtesy Perk's)



housed McHan & Buck Funeral Home. It was closed when the LDS Hospital opened Oct. 22, 1923.

Dr. S.S. Fuller operated a hospital on Placer Avenue and Walnut Street for several years until it was purchased by Dr. H.D. Spencer in 1916. Dr. Spencer moved his hospital to a new location at 789 South Boulevard in 1921. It continued as a general hospital until 1941 when it was taken over by the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Order Adoration and became Sacred Heart Hospital. The Sisters on Oct. 14, 1949, opened the new Sacred Heart Hospital on South Boulevard and 25th Street.

The LDS Hospital later became known as Idaho Falls Hospital and still later as Riverview Hospital and Sacred Heart Hospital as Parkview Hospital and later Community Hos-



Sister Veronique and Sister Norbertine in kitchen at Sacred Heart Hospital; Sacred Heart Hospital (Photos courtesy Post Register)





pital. They were consolidated Dec. 28, 1977, becoming Idaho Falls Consolidated Hospital Inc. These two hospital facilities were vacated in December, 1986, when the newly constructed Eastern Idaho Regional

Woolworth and I.O.O.F. Building; Jim Infelt and E.W. Fanning, opening of Municipal Youth Center, 1947 (Photos courtesy Joe Marker); E.I.R.M.C., (Photo by Quincy Jensen)



Medical Center was ready to begin operation. Parkview Hospital was demolished in 1987, and Riverview Hospital in 1988-89.

The Idaho Falls Masonic Lodge and Bingham Lodge No. 14 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows have been in existence here since the days of Eagle Rock. The Fraternal Order of Eagles Aerie 576 began here in January, 1904, and the Idaho Falls Elks Lodge 1087 was chartered here July 15, 1908.

Civic clubs have also had a beneficial effect on the community over the years with their civic projects. These include Rotary, Lions, Kiwanis, Exchange and Civitan, as well as the Idaho Falls Music Club and Round Table Club.

The Greater Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce began here in February, 1907, as the Idaho Falls Club of Commerce with J. Wesley Holden as its first president. Others serving in that capacity through 1918 were F.C. Mosely, E.P. Coltman, G.G. Wright, B.J. Briggs, M.B. Yeaman, Charles Oden, L.M. Earl, George M. Scott, Frank C. Bowman and Eugene Wright. The Bonneville County Commercial Club was organized April 28, 1919, with T.H. Kelley and O.A. Johannesen serving as presidents during the three years it was in existence. The Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce was organized April 5, 1922, with George Bistorious and W.L. Shattuck serving as presidents, each for a part of that year. 1989 marks the 88th year the Chamber has served the community with its offices on Eastern Avenue just north of the Bonneville Museum. All of its presidents have been successful business and professional men in Idaho Falls.

The Andrew Carnegie Corporation had pledged in 1905 to the city the sum of \$10,000 for a public library building, but the city failed to take it on at that time. Civic women kept up their efforts to establish a library here, and eventually the Carnegie people agreed to up that amount to \$15,000. The library located on Eastern Avenue and Elm Street (now the Bonneville Museum) was completed and dedicated in 1916. The library served Idaho Falls until the new modern Public Library on Broadway and Capital Avenue was built and opened on July 15, 1977.

James L. Milner opened the Milner Apartment House on Park Avenue and D Street in June, 1909, after being converted at a cost of \$14,000. Earlier the building had been used as a military drill hall, opera house, and the railroad round-

house.

Churches of various denominations have made their imprint on Idaho Falls over the years. Members of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormons) held meetings in Eagle Rock in the late fall of 1882. They erected a frame church in 1885 on the east bank of Snake River here at a cost of \$450. A Daughters of Utah Pioneers monument in the river park south of where the old LDS Hospital stood marks the site of the old frame church. The Eagle Rock branch of the church was formed here Jan. 10, 1886. It was changed to the Ea-

gle Rock Ward in November that same year. It became the Idaho Falls LDS First Ward in 1892. A quaint native rock church was built at the corner of Park Avenue and E. Street, at a cost of \$35,000, and dedicated in 1896. James Thomas was set apart by LDS Apostle John Smith as the first bishop of the ward, with William Thomas and John D. Evans as his counselors. The old brick Tabernacle and social hall was built on the church property on E Street and Capital Avenue in 1912 at a cost of \$64,000. This property today is the site of the Deseret Industries. There are now over 40 Wards of the LDS



L.D.S. Tabernacle, Idaho Falls (Photo courtesy Joe Marker)



Swedish Evangelical Church (Photo courtesy John Beckman)



Historic First Presbyterian Church before addition (Photo courtesy Joe Marker)



Christ the King Catholic Church (Photo by Quincy Jensen)

Church in Idaho Falls.

The first LDS Temple in Idaho was erected in Idaho Falls on Memorial Drive overlooking the Snake River. Officiating at the dedicatory services on Sept. 23, 24, and 25, 1945, was LDS Church President George Albert Smith, assisted by his counselors, President J. Reuben Clark, Jr. and President David O. McKay, and members of the LDS Quorum of Twelve Apostles. Presi-

dents of the two Idaho Falls LDS Stakes at the time were David Smith of the North Idaho Falls LDS Stake, and Cecil E. Hart of the South Idaho Falls LDS Stake.

Mrs. Rebecca Brown Mitchell, a Baptist missionary, arrived in Eagle Rock on June 5, 1882, and by June 11 she had organized a Sunday School, and began to teach public school the next day. She was instrumental in getting the frame First

Baptist Church built at the corner of Eastern Avenue and Ash Street in 1884 with a wing added to the south in 1900. It served the congregation until November, 1959, when the new modern church building was erected on John Adams Parkway and Olive Street. It was dedicated Oct. 15, 1961.

The Idaho Falls Catholic community observed its centennial here on June 19, 1985, with Bishop Sylvester Treinen of the Catholic Diocese of Boise celebrating Mass in Holy Rosary Catholic Church. Prior to the construction of the first Holy Rosary Catholic Church on Eastern Avenue and Maple Street in 1895-96, the parishioners met and celebrated Mass in their homes with priests coming here from parishes in Hailey and Pocatello to say the Mass. In March, 1920, Holy Rosary School and Church was erected on 9th Street and Lee Avenue where parishioners began celebrating Mass with Father Francis L. Lobell as the celebrant for many years. The new Holy Rosary Catholic Church on Lee Avenue and 9th Street was dedicated Sunday,



Original First Lutheran Church (Photo courtesy Joe Marker)



May 1, 1949. The first Mass was celebrated by its pastor, the Rev. J.A. Jentges. A second Catholic church here, Christ the King, was started Aug. 16, 1966. The church building at E. 17th Street and Woodruff Avenue was dedicated on Oct. 29, 1967, by the Most Rev. Sylvester Treinen, bishop of the Catholic Diocese of Boise. The first Mass was celebrated that day by its first pastor, The Rev. Father Merwyn F. Nuxoll.

It was in 1882 that the first official Methodist service was held here. The following year the Rev. E.B. Elder was appointed resident pastor and he organized the First Methodist Episcopal Church here. Services were held in the original Baptist Church on Eastern Avenue. In 1895 the corner stone was laid for a frame building on the corner of North Water Avenue and Elm Street. In 1916, a well-known contractor here was given the contract of \$47,000 to erect this church then known as Trinity Methodist Church. When completed it cost \$50,000 and was dedicated in October, 1917, by a Dr. Iliff. The final mortgage was burned in 1926

when the Rev. Horace Turner was pastor. Then in 1948 a new three-story educational wing was constructed on the north side of the church by Dan Sweeney at a cost of \$80,000. A second Methodist Church, St. Paul's at the corner of East 17th Street and St. Clair Road, came into existence in 1960 with the Rev. Ralph Lawrence as its first pastor.

The First Presbyterian Church was organized here on April 29, 1891, by the Rev. S.E. Wishard, who was the church missionary for Utah and Idaho at the time. The First Presbyterian Church frame building was built at a cost of \$1,600 on the corner of Shoup Avenue and A Street, and was dedicated April 24, 1892, with the Rev. Davie E. Van Geison from Brooklyn, New York, as its first pastor. The present dome structure on North Ridge Avenue and Elm Street was built in 1918-19 with dedication taking place April 11, 1920. Having the longest tenure as pastor, was the Rev. Dr. Joseph I. Gulick who served the church here for 30 years.

In 1885, the first Episcopal Church

services were held in Eagle Rock in the homes of members. The Rt. Rev. Ethelbert Talbot, Bishop of Idaho and Wyoming, preached the first sermon in Idaho Falls in 1890. A red brick church was erected in 1895 on the northeast corner of Park Avenue and A Street with the Rev. John Dawson as the missionary in charge. This church site was sold March 18, 1909, to the Salisbury Investment Company of Salt Lake City. A new frame church was built at 270 North Placer Avenue and dedicated Sept. 12, 1909. It remained a mission until 1953 when it became a self-supporting parish with the Rev. David Blackhalter as the first rector. This frame church was torn down and a new brick edifice was constructed on the site when the Rev. Jack T. Viggers was rector. It was dedicated Dec. 10, 1964. A second Episcopal Church - St. Mark's - was established here in 1982 when the new parish purchased the Christian Science Church building on 4th Street and Boulevard in July that year. The Rev. Jack T. Viggers was the priest in charge. The building was dedicated March 25, 1983, by Bishop David Birney of the Idaho Episcopal Diocese.

Alliance Covenant Church began here in 1895 as the Swedish Mission Church meeting in a frame building in New Sweden. They moved into Idaho Falls in 1899 and held services in a small frame building on Western Avenue, known then as the Swedish Evangelical Church. A new frame church was built on Sixth Street and South Boulevard, which was completed and opened at Christmas time in 1906. It served the congregation until a brick church was constructed at the same site in 1951. It was completed and opened for services on Easter Sunday, 1954. The name was changed to Evangelical Covenant Church in 1972, and to the Alliance Covenant Church on June 8, 1981. A new modern brick edifice was constructed in 1989 and opened for services in July the same year.

Members of the Seventh-day Adventist Church began meeting here in 1896 in homes and several years later in the old Pendleton rock building on Shoup Avenue south of B Street. Later they moved into a remodeled school building on Lake Avenue and J. Street in 1937. They built a new modern church on 800 Westhill Avenue, which was dedicated May 1, 1976, when James C. Parmele was pastor.

A small group of Lutherans met in a vacant storeroom on Eagle Rock



St. John's Episcopal Church (Photo courtesy Joe Marker)

Street in 1898 to make preparations for the beginning of a Lutheran congregation in Idaho Falls. The first service was conducted by the Rev. A. Gunberg March 31, 1898, in the downtown Episcopal Church. The first building of First Lutheran Church at the corner of North Water Avenue and Birch Street was completed by Christmas Day, 1899. The frame structure was built at a cost of \$1,481. The congregation voted in 1939 to construct a new building at the same site at a cost of \$8,673. With the considerable growth in the city and in the congregation due to the new Atomic Energy Commission site west of the city, the church in 1957 built an addition to its building at a cost of \$65,000.

St. John's Lutheran Church history in Idaho Falls began in 1909 when the Rev. E.P. Meyer, who had been serving as pastor of the Lutheran congregation at Squirrel near Ashton prior to that time, was officially installed as pastor here. Services were held on alternate Sundays in the First Lutheran Church. A small frame church building was erected and dedicated in 1922 at the corner of 7th Street and Emerson Avenue. Then on November 24, 1949, the last service was held in the old church and the first service in the new brick church at the same site during the pastorate of the Rev. Waldo H. Rist.

Hope Lutheran Church was organized here July 7, 1957, with the Rev. Robert L. Thaelke as missionary pastor. The church was located on East 17th Street, and served the congregation until the new Hope Lutheran Church and School was built at 2071 12th Street. First services in this new edifice were held June 21, 1981, with the Rev. Thaelke as guest preacher.

The Salvation Army established a corps here assigning Capt. Griffith Jones as its first commanding officer in 1903, and Capt. Thomas Larson as its second commander in 1904. The officers conducted their first services in a tent on North Capital Avenue and B Street, and later in a frame building with tar-paper siding at the same location. On June 25, 1939, the corps moved into a new \$50,000 building at the same site, with Commissioner Benjamin Orames of San Francisco giving the dedicatory address. The new building was sponsored by the City of Idaho Falls, with the cooperation of the Federal Works Progress Administration, commonly known as the WPA. When this building was torn down, The Salvation Army moved to the old Library on Eastern Avenue and Elm Street, in

August, 1977. From there The Salvation Army moved July 10, 1982 into its present building on Holmes Avenue and Garfield Street formerly the Assembly of God Church. Major Laurie Kirk, Jr. and Mrs. Major Shirley Kirk are the current corps commanders.

First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) had its beginning here Nov. 15, 1915. The congregation met in the Star Theater downtown until a frame building was constructed on South Boulevard and Birch Street. It was dedicated Feb. 20, 1916, by the Rev. D.B. Titus. The church continued at that address for 48 years until it moved into its new building on Jan. 12, 1964, at 1800 12th Street.

Calvary Baptist Church was organized here March 26, 1951, and its first church building at 785 First Street was opened later that spring. The Rev. Dr. C. Lee Bullard was the first pastor. The new modern church edifice at the same location was opened and dedicated May 19, 1985, when the Rev. William H. Warren was pastor.

In 1957, the First Congregational Church came into existence here with the Rev. Richard Henderson being called in December of that year as its first minister. The congregation met in the church parsonage on Ninth Street for an installation service with its 57 charter members being held on Sept. 28, 1958. The first worship service in the church building at Lincoln Drive and Ninth Street was held November 6, 1960. A new wing was added to the building in 1965 to accommodate the Sunday School and other activities of the church.

Meetings of the Assembly of God were first held here in the fall of 1930 conducted by Evangelist Burt Newby in a hall on Broadway. Several months later it moved to a new location at Lee Avenue and 4th Street. In 1931 the congregation moved again to a building on Shoup Avenue where it worshipped until 1933 when it moved into its own church building at 15th Street and Lee Avenue. Then lots were purchased on Holmes Avenue and Garfield Street where a new building was completed in May, 1957. The New Life Assembly of God Church, as it is now known, located at 2170 12th Street, was opened and services were held there in March, 1982.

The Idaho Falls Church of the Nazarene was organized in the home of Mrs. Virinda Breeding May 12, 1929, by the Rev. A.E. Sanner, superintendent of the Idaho-Oregon District, with 12 charter members.

Under the leadership of the first pastor, the Rev. Harry L. Rogers, a new frame church building was constructed in 1931 at the corner of South Boulevard and Third Street. It was replaced by a new church at the same site with the first service on Mother's Day, May 8, 1960. This church served the congregation until January, 1978, when its present brick building was opened on Washburn and Grandview on the west side of the city, under the pastorate of the Rev. Dr. John M. Sweeney.

Gethsemane Baptist Church opened their first church building on 2345 W. Broadway in 1958 with the Rev. Duane Logsdon as first pastor, after members had been meeting in homes, the City Building and other churches the previous year. The new modern church edifice was dedicated in 1983 at the same site when the Rev. Dwight Allen was pastor.

Other denominations then followed, until today almost every major church group is represented in the community.

The town's first fire-fighting facility - a volunteer hose cart company -



Paramount Dressing Room (Photo by Bower)

came into existence in 1885 and was located on Eagle Rock Street. The first fire chief was Ed Winn. Horse-drawn equipment was first used in 1907. As Idaho Falls grew and expanded north and east of the original townsite a frame fire station was established on Park Avenue where Harris Publishing Company is now located. Later the Fire Department, during the years Julius Marker was fire chief, moved to larger quarters in a one-story brick building on Park Avenue where S.H. Kress and later Bonanza stores were situated. In 1930, the Fire Department moved to its present quarters in the City Building on Shoup Avenue and C Street. Since then a second fire station was established on the northside of the 500 block of 8th Street, which is now used as the ambulance station. Then in more recent years as Idaho Falls grew fire stations were erected on Skyline Drive and Grandview Avenue for the west side and on Lincoln



Fire Station 4, Lincoln Road (Photo by Alice Horton)



Idaho Falls Public Library on Broadway (Photo by Quincy Jensen)



Wright's Old Flour Mill, Idaho Falls; McCutcheon Hardware Company (Photos courtesy of Joe Marker)



Passengers to Brooks Hotel (Photo courtesy Joe Marker)



Idaho Steam Laundry, 1909; Downtown traffic (Photos courtesy Joe Marker)





C. C. Hayes, Undertaker; Sam Taylor's Livery (Photos courtesy Joe Marker)

Road and Woodruff Avenue for the east side.

Contractor William Walker Keefer, the father of Phil, Frank, Fred, and Clyde Keefer, and Mrs. Claud R. Black, and Louise Keefer Blackbird, is credited with building the town's first jail at a staggering cost of \$234. Keefer also built the State Bank Building on Broadway and Park Avenue, the Arave Building on the southside of the 400 block of Broadway, now the site of the new Public Library; the C.W. & M. (Consolidated Wagon and Machine Company) building on the northside of the 400 block of Broadway, since torn down and replaced with the J.C. Penney store now vacated when this business moved to the Grand Teton Mall on East 17th Street; the old two-story brick Eagle Rock School on South Chamberlain Avenue; the old rock warehouse on the northside of West Broadway, and many others.

First paving on Broadway and Park Avenue occurred shortly after the turn of the century, around 1905 and 1906, and was done by Keefer and a Mr. Henry.

The city's first "amusement house", the Dime Theatre, was opened in 1908 by Joe George in the 400 block of Broadway. The price of admission then was ten cents for adults and five cents for children. Later, on January 8, 1909 Al Christensen and Tommy Gearhart started the Scenic Theatre in the 300 block of Broadway on the southside of the street. A short time later the Star Theatre was opened on Park Avenue by the Wilson brothers in the Odd Fellows building, and was managed by Curley Thornton, the father of the late realtor here, Bud Thornton. In 1915, George sold the Dime Theatre to Al Hager, who changed its name to the Orpheum Theatre which featured vaudeville. Then George built the American Theatre on the northside of the 300 block of A Street. It was later known as the Gayety Theatre. Shortly thereafter, Hager opened the Rex Theatre on Park Avenue near B Street, later known as the Falls Theatre and today as the Centre Theater. Hager's Friday night "Country Store" was a popular attraction with theater goers.

Dr. C.M. Cline and C.A. Spath of the Farmers and Merchants Bank of Idaho Falls, and F.K. Mittry of North Pacific Construction Company, were responsible for building the Colonial Theatre on the northside of the 400 block of A Street, now known as the Paramount Theater. They boasted



Idaho Rocky Mountain Ballet Company dancer Lucretia Murphy (Photo by Robert Bower)



Oil painting by Helen Aupperle (Photo courtesy Post-Register)

that it was "the biggest and finest" theatre in Idaho, with 1,400 seats. The theatre opened to the public November 10, 1919, with an address by Mayor W.A. Bradbury. C.H. Lewis was the theatre manager. The opening featured a stage production performed by John Ferguson, billed as the "foremost playwright of America" and his original company, who were on a transcontinental tour and who appeared in Seattle, Portland and San Francisco before coming here. The handsome showhouse featured the largest theater stage in the Mountain West, loges, a Morton pipe organ to accompany the silent movies. In 1929, a huge massive screen was installed to help perfect "the sincronization of Vitaphone talking pictures." Among these Vitaphone motion pictures shown at the Colonial Theatre that year were Fannie Brice in "My Man", and Al Jolson in "The Singing Fool". It was later known as the Paramount Theatre when purchased by Fox Motion Pictures Studio of Hollywood. It is still in operation but under local ownership, featuring bargain-price feature movies.

The last theater built downtown was the Broadway Theatre on Broadway erected by Joe George. It opened on May 5, 1929 and featured the all-talking motion picture, "Syncopation" starring Fred Waring and his Pennsylvanians. A special entertainment by members of the Chamber Music Club of the Claussen Decorating Company of Salt Lake City performed during the afternoon and evening before showing of the motion





picture musical extravaganza. Mrs. George A. "Winifred" Aupperle, organist at the First Presbyterian Church, was the organist. Designed in Spanish style, both on the outside

and interior, the theatre also featured a Morton theatre pipe organ. Cost of the new theatre was \$85,000. Later it was known as the Rio Theater and sold to Paul DeMourant and Hugh

Drennen, who also owned the Falls Theatre and the Motor-Vu Theatre and other theaters in the valley. It is now operated by a Montana firm. Phil Keefer recalled having played



Idaho Falls Opera Theater "Ruddigore"; Young violinists rehearsing (Photos by Robert Bower)





McDermott Field (Photo by Post-Register); Aerial of Highland Park (Photo by Melville's)

Tautphaus Park Grandstand (Photo courtesy of Joe Marker)

Tautphaus Park Zoo (Photo by Robert Bower)

the piano and organ in every one of the theaters except the Colonial and Rio. He remembered that when talking motion pictures first came in Hager told him he would no longer need his services at the musical instruments, but then as if to encourage him, said "I doubt if these talkies will go over." He remembered playing the musical accompaniment for such silent movies as "What Price Glory", "The Big Parade", Rudolph Valentino's "Four Horsemen of the Apocalypse", which ran for four weeks, and many others.

John Lingren, a pioneer of this area, was instrumental in developing Idaho Falls' first amusement park - Highland Park on West Elva Street - in 1904-05 on land he had homesteaded earlier. It included a picnic

Bandshell, Freeman Park (Photo by Bower)



Pinecrest Golf Course Clubhouse (Photo by Quincy Jensen)

area, baseball diamond, dance pavilion, fishing pond and swimming pool. In 1920 the city of Idaho Falls purchased the property and dismantled some of the buildings, leaving a log building that today is used by the Idaho Falls Art Guild and known as

the Eagle Rock Art Gallery. McDermott Baseball Field occupies some of the land today. In 1909, the Idaho Falls Boosters Club secured an option for \$25,000 on Tautphaus Park, comprised of 160 acres then located south of the city limits, and

owned by Charles C. Tautphaus, to convert the property into a city park, playground, race track, and amusement park. It was opened to the public July 25, 1910, in connection with the LDS Pioneer Day observance. Tautphaus Park was also the site for



Idaho Falls Transfer with truck (Photo courtesy Joe Marker)



Garrett's Transfer Company (Photo courtesy Darlene Shipp Fullmer)

many years of the staging of the War Bonnet Roundup by Bonneville Post 56 of the American Legion. The park was later known as Reno Park, named after Frank Reno who had purchased it from Mr. Tautphaus. It was known as Reno Park for some years before it reverted back to the original name Tautphaus Park as it is now known.

Since then there have been a number of beautiful parks developed and maintained throughout the city of Idaho Falls, including those along both sides of the Snake River. Among those who were instrumental in the development was Russell A. Freeman, a longtime city councilman. Pinecrest Golf Course was developed back in 1929 by the Idaho Falls Country Club. Comprised of 68 members, they established the first nine holes. They sold it to the city in 1936. The present log clubhouse and second nine holes were built with WPA funds during the administrations of Mayors Barzilla W. Clark and Chase A. Clark. George H. Orulian was the golf pro for many years. In more recent years, a second golf course, Sandcreek Golf Course was developed in 1978 and dedicated June 27, 1980 on Hackman Road south of the city. It also started with nine holes and now is an 18-hole beautiful course, with a clubhouse.

Among the longtime businesses in the downtown business district was Pedersen Cleaners and Tailors established in 1901 by Peder Pedersen, a colorful figure and sportsman, and father of S. Eddie and Einer Pedersen, who later operated the business. Active in sportsmen's affairs, Pedersen was instrumental in helping to organize with Dr. L.M. Miller, Dr. B.M. Brookfield, Jesse H. Nielsen and Lawrence Balster, the Rod and Gun Club in 1911, which later became the Bonneville County Sportsmen's Association, which Peder Pedersen and years later S. Eddie Pedersen headed for many years.

Old Faithful Beverage Company began business here in 1902 on South Eastern Avenue and Maple Street, established by Charles Coughlin. A few years later, around 1912, Jay Simmons opened the Coca Cola Bottling Company on Lee Avenue and Second Street. In more recent years it has been located on Lincoln Road and operated by Arthur Mahood.

Polk's Idaho Directory in 1900-01 listed the following firms and professional people in Idaho Falls: grocers: George Brunt Company, F.M. Bybee, Emelia Hellar, Zion's Cooperative

Mercantile Company and Anderson Brothers Mercantile Company; contractors: W.W. Keefer and John Vance; bakery: Frank Banholt; hotels, Neil Armstrong's Brooks Hotel on Eagle Rock Street and N.D. Porter's Porter Hotel on Broadway; livestock company: F.K. Hitt, cattle; livery stables: D.N. Clyne, W.C. Holmes, H.S. Willis, and Sam Taylor; musical instruments: Alma Marker Music Store and Idaho Music Company (Soren Jensen, proprietor); physicians and surgeons: B.J. Jones, L.A. Harris, T.R. LaRue and G.W. Pendleton; music teachers: Mrs. J.R. Mason, Mrs. W.H.B. Crow; druggists: W.S. Jackson, Martin Maguire, R.F. Payne, Cutter Drug Company; dress makers: Mrs. Jennie Lanea, DeRome Sisters; confectioners: A.H. Brown and Lee Hughes; laundries: Idaho Steam Laundry (Cline Brothers proprietors); meat markets: Joe Brandl Broadway, Lewis and Luxton (later Luxton & Bennett) C.G. Meyers; men's furnishing goods: Gustaf Johnson, Lewis and Lock, Clark and Fanning (operated by N.H. Clark and R. Fanning) and ZCMI; milk and cream: Cal Pelot, located near the river bridge.

When Rocky Mountain Bell opened its Idaho Falls telephone exchange in February, 1899, only 21 telephones were on the local system. The exchange was first located on Broadway in rooms over the Bybee Grocery. Stanley Crowley, a longtime Idaho Falls CPA and former city councilman, was the messenger boy and swamper for the telephone office and took care of the switchboard when the operator was out. Customers paid \$75 every six months for their telephone service. By 1900, the exchange served 28 telephones. The first long-distance line was installed in 1901. The number of phones on the exchange totaled 713 by 1910, when the city's population was 4,827. An office was opened at 246 Broadway in 1911 known as Mountain States Telephone & Telegraph Company, with Harry Morgan, Sr., as manager. Among the first telephone operators were Alice Wilson, Nellie Whitehead Beach, and Emma Poppy. By 1930, there were 3,160 telephones on the local exchange, when the city's population had increased to 9,429. When 1960 rolled around, the number of phones had jumped to 19,000 in a city of 33,161 people, and by 1970 there were 33,000 telephones. That increased to 55,380 by 1979. Mountain Bells officials said that in 1984 there were 27,278 "lines" flowing out of the Idaho Falls Exchange

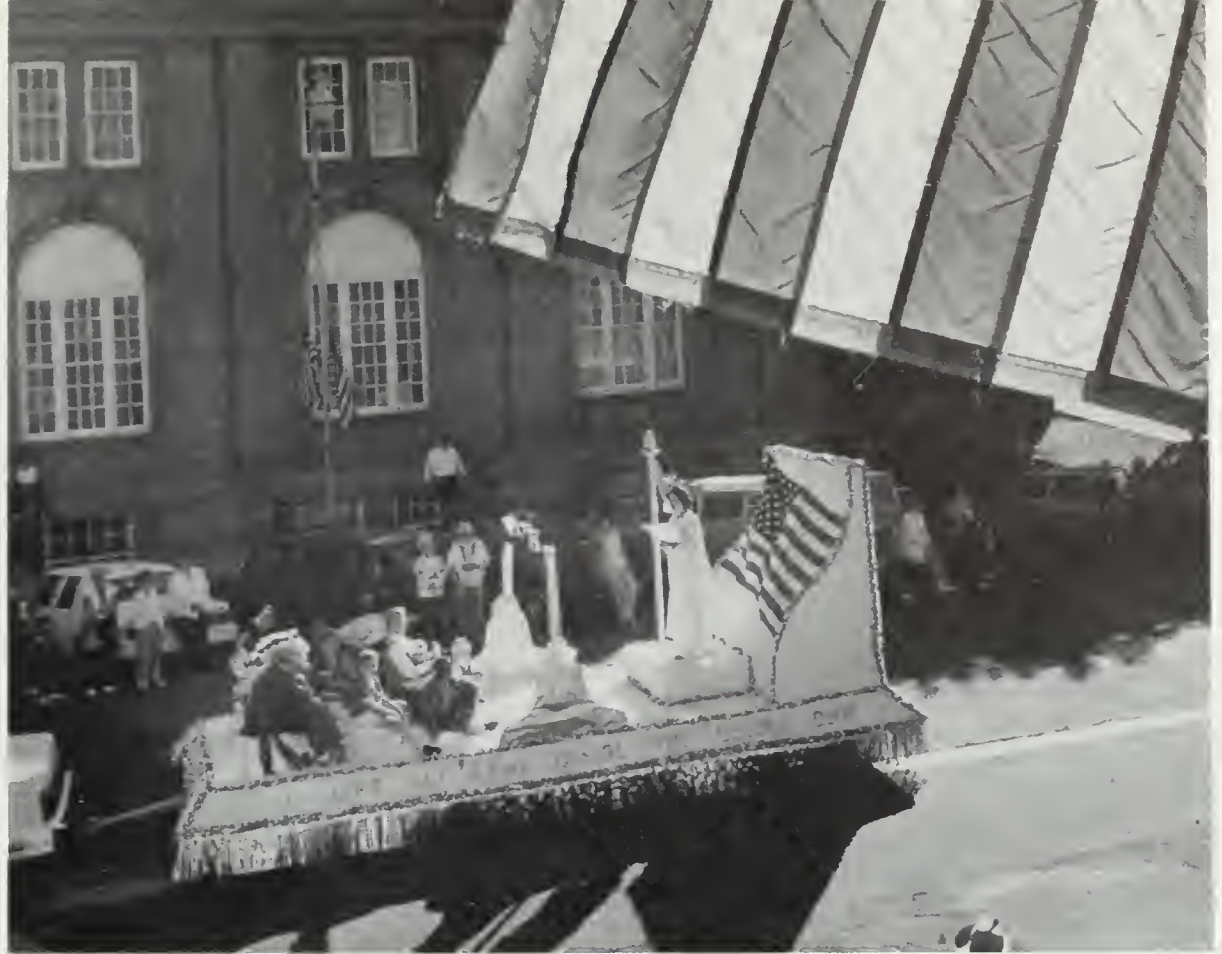
compared with 24,000 out of the Pocatello Exchange. They didn't know how many phones were hooked up to each line, but estimated that the number of phones here in 1984 were 55,380. A larger telephone office was constructed in 1927-28 on C Street and Shoup Avenue.

Other telephone milestones for the Idaho Falls Exchange include a building addition and large central office expansion in 1953; another building addition in 1956; dial conversion on Dec. 16, 1956; and direct-distance dialing on July 15, 1962. The first error detection and correction teletype service in the United States was installed at what then was the Atomic Energy Commission's Idaho Operations Office in Idaho Falls in 1963. Touchtone service was available here for one- and two-party lines in January, 1967. Microwave expansion from Idaho Falls to Pocatello took place in July, 1968. The first 24-hour data network in the United States was installed at the AEC in Idaho Falls in November, 1968, flashing 40,000 bits of information per second. All of these necessitated further expansion and enlarging of its building facilities on C Street and Shoup at a cost of several million dollars.

Johnson Brothers Planing Mill, Inc. at 211 Cliff Street has been in operation here since 1905, when Eno Johnson and his family moved from Chicago to Idaho Falls. Business then consisted of constructing houses, churches and schools. There was no electricity available back then so a water wheel was used to operate the machinery in the mill. With the advent of electricity to this area in 1908, the Mill, which had run on an 80-foot-long wooden shaft with 15 pulleys, was connected to a 15 horsepower motor. Most of the equipment was powered by the shaft and pulleys until 1960 when individual motors were installed. To this day, the shaft and pulleys are still in the basement of the company building. The Mill has grown to a general construction business that involves interior woodwork. In the last few years, the firm under the managership of David Sargis, has expanded its operation to include Johnson Brothers Distributing, Precision Door & Hardware, The Countertop Shop, and The Moulding Works.

Roy Farr started his Farr Candy Company back in 1911 as a confectionery store on Broadway, moving to North Capital Avenue in 1925. At that time he expanded his business into small wholesale accounts, dispensing his home-made candy and

ice cream to stores in Iona, Ammon, Shelley, Rigby and Ririe. Candy-maker was C.B. "Candy" Williams who turned out Farr's Mallo-nut, Peanut Cluster and Cherry Cordial bars. Williams started to work for Farr's in 1913 and continued to work for them until well into his 80s. The firm still supplies its ice cream and candy bars to stores as far away as Pinedale, Wyo., West Yellowstone, Mont., Jackson, Wyo., Dubois and Fort Hall. Among its longtime employees were "dippers" Lila DaBell and Katy Torneten; Matt Worton, candy maker, Jack Hendricks, in charge of ice cream manufacturing, and driver salesmen Dwain Keller, Dee Nish, and Bob Whiting. William "Bill" Call, a son-in-law of Roy Farr, came into the business as manager in June, 1946, by the encouragement of his wife, Claribel Farr, daughter of Roy Farr. Call is



Parade float passes City Building; Ladies shop at Ferrell's (Photos courtesy of Post-Register)



Elks' Parade, top; Fourth of July Parades, opposite (Photos courtesy Joe Marker)
Circus Parade, below (Photo courtesy M. Beckman)







First U.S. Airmail flight out of Idaho Falls (Photo courtesy Joe Marker); Potato warehouse people (Photo courtesy Joe Marker)



the owner and operator of the business today.

Westergard Transfer & Storage Company started March 12, 1912, on North Capital Avenue by James C. Westergard, Sr., Clyde A. Brainard, Fred Erickson and James Nygaard. It was originally known as Idaho Falls Transfer & Storage Company, becoming Westergard Transfer & Storage in 1926, after Westergard had bought out his partners. Originally horses and wagons were used, and later motorized trucks. Later his sons, Jay Westergard and D.L. Westergard became a part of the business. Today the firm is operated by D.L.'s son, James C. "Jim" Westergard. The company's Westergard Desk Company is operated by Ruth Westergard Langseth, a daughter of James C. Westergard, Sr., the founder. It is located on Lindsay Boulevard.

The Idaho Falls Milling Company was established on the west side of the city in 1889 by Burgess Edelman. The following year the business was purchased by G.G. Wright and E.W. Fanning, Sr. Later, Wright managed the C.W. & M. Company.

Horace Chesbro pioneered a music business here that today serves a large clientele throughout the nation and world, and particularly in the

western states. It is Chesbro Music Company on Broadway and Shoup Avenue. It has been in business for 78 years. The firm today is headed by Joan Chesbro, a granddaughter of the founder and daughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Henry Chesbro. After Henry's death, Mrs. Ella Chesbro, widow of Horace Chesbro, served as president of the business until she died, when Joan became head of the firm.

The first radio station in Idaho Falls was KID started in 1928 by Jack Duckworth and located in the Bonneville Auto Company building on North Capital Avenue and A Street. It later moved to Broadway to the second floor of the present Ferrell's Men's Store, and then to the KID Building in the 300 block of Broadway over Western Union. Still later it was located in the Bonneville Hotel until moving to East 17th



"Spud Alley" (Photo courtesy Joe Marker)

Street. The first television station was KID-TV Channel 3 started here Dec. 20, 1953, with Claude Caine as station manager; Roy Southwick as operations and program manager; Carroll Secrist as chief engineer, and owned by Idaho Broadcasting Corporation.

KIFI Radio began (started by James M. Brady) in 1947 on Broadway above the present-day Dean's Antiques Shop. It moved into its own building on the North Yellowstone Highway in the 1950s. Then in January 1961, KIFI TV Channel 8 came on the scene at the same address, owned and operated by The Post Company, of which James M. Brady was president, and managed in more

recent years by his son Jerry M. Brady and his wife, Rickie.

The first flight of United States airmail from Idaho Falls occurred on September 1, 1934, George Keller, who was superintendent of mails at the local downtown Post Office at the time, remembers. A Fokker super Universal plane operated by the Salt Lake-Great Falls Airline landed at the Idaho Falls Airport September 1, 1934, at 7:50 a.m. to launch the airmail service here. Among those on hand for the airmail stop were the Pilot A. W. Stephenson; A.E. Smith, secretary of the Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce; Parley Short, mail messenger; A.C. Bloomgren, Idaho State Aeronautical Commissioner;

Joseph Morley, Idaho Falls Postmaster; William S. Moran, assistant Postmaster; M.M. Bodell, assistant chief clerk, Railway Mail Service, Idaho, and Idaho Falls Mayor Barzilla W. Clark. The first flight from here carried mail pouches containing 73 pounds of mail, and a piece of air express.

Among the well-known places to eat in Idaho Falls were Fred's Cafe on Broadway operated by Ross Corbett and Reed McKnight; Gil Telford's Gil's Grill, later the Cheapeake Cafe, and The Lobby, all on Broadway; John and Carl Monsen's Monsen Brothers Cafe on A Street, later moved to Park Avenue and called their restaurant the New Man-



hattan Cafe, John Ford's Billiards and Cafe on A Street, Nick Lagos and Harry Stavros' Falls Candy Kitchen on Park Avenue, Ada's Cafe on Shoup Avenue operated by Bill and Ada Kishiyama, which began as the Idaho Noodle Parlor, opened by Ada's mother, Mrs. Kane Mori; Jack and Anna Scheets' Jack's Chicken Inn on South Yellowstone Highway; Ralph Fullenwider's Apple Pie Inn on C Street and Yellowstone Avenue; George Pope's Hamburger Stands; Kuchoy Tom's Star Cafe; Mr. Fitzpatrick's A. & W. Root Beer Stand, Orson Arnold's Nickel Spot on A Street; Paul Meir's The Den. Among

Inside Safeway (Photo courtesy Post Register)

the restaurants on the scene in Idaho Falls today are the North Hi-Way Cafe, Westbank Quality Inn, Stardust, Weston's Lamplighter (began as Holiday Inn); Little Tree Inn that began as the Flamingo Inn, David and Kathy Drew's The Mill at Taylor's Crossing, Smitty's Pancake House, Dennis' O'Brady's Family Restaurant, Cedric's Family Restaurant, Kim's Chinese Garden Restaurant, North's Family Restaurant, and First Street Carriage House.

Early-day potato warehouses here were J.C. Jacobsen Potatoes, Jack Adams Potato Company, Western Milling Elevator Company, Potatoes;

Howard Brothers Produce Company, all of which were located on Market Street (Spud Alley) south of Broadway; Weyl-Zuckerman and Company, Potatoes and Onions, on Maple Street; George Heyrend Potatoes, now operated by his son, DeLaine J. Heyrend; L.S. Taube; Martin Brothers; E.P. Wengert; Fred B. Howard; A.G. "Bert" Stanger's Idaho Falls Bonded Produce Company located on South Boulevard and 2nd Street, and now on Lincoln Road with John Stanger running the business.

Other longtime businesses included Scott's Book Store on



Broadway, foreground; Eagle Rock Street, background (Photo by Quincy Jensen)

Broadway run by George M. Scott and sons, Roland and Marshall Scott; Idaho Falls Electric Company owned by Walter Bauchman; Bonneville Auto Company owned by Fred A. Carleson, Harry L. Hops and B.L. Harris; Preston A. Blair Dodge dealer, later to become Ellsworth Brothers owned by Fisher, Jack and Frank Ellsworth; Dad Clay's Garage; Smith-Hart Chevrolet on C Street and Park Avenue owned by David Smith and Cecil E. Hart (later split up and opened new auto agencies on North Holmes Avenue, with Smith Chevrolet located at North Holmes Avenue and Yellowstone Highway, Albion Smith as president; and Hart Pontiac-Cadillac being located at 1363 N. Holmes Avenue, Ray Hart as president). J. Ed Browning Buick on Park Avenue and D St.; Roy J. Keller Studebaker dealership and later Toyota on River Parkway; Wackerli Packard Car Agency on C Street and Shoup Avenue; J.H. Boozer Garage on C Street and later Boozer Oil Company on West Broadway; Ernie Ellswood auto agency and later mobile homes on South Yellowstone Highway; Petersen's Furniture Store owned by Earl Bowman and later by his son, Conrad Bowman; C.E. Dinwoodey Furniture and Undertaker; A.M. Smith Furniture; Morley and Chapin Furniture, which was to become Ahlstrom Furniture owned by Paul Ahlstrom; Barney Gesas' Fair Store; George C. Tway Plumbing and Heating Company; H & M Cigar Store, City Pantatorium, The Russet Bar, Homer and Koster Real Estate, and Eastern Idaho Loan & Trust Company operated by W.L. Shattuck and E.L. Shattuck. More old-time merchants were Rowles & Mack, and Wade Brothers men's stores; Rudman and Gottberg, Don Kugler, John Weida, jewelers; Jack Johnston's Wholesale (later Snowball's operated by John M. Collette); The Park Billards run by W.F. "Bill" Gourley and Max Clark; Sanitary Cash Grocery owned by Carl Nation; Broulim's Grocery operated by Adolph Broulim; Marker & Sandles' Grocery run by James A. Marker and Chad Sandles; Earl Evans Druggist; Harold B. Craggs Drug Store; Schram-Johnson Drug, later to become Fogg's Drug Store owned by Russell H. Fogg; Joy Drug Store owned by Frank McClure and run by Harry Hettinger; Modern Shoe Store owned by Harry Morgan and Ray Narah; Douglass Machine Shop; Lawrence Floral Shop on Shoup Avenue; Harry Holmgren's City Floral



Livestock Auction, now and then (Photos courtesy Joe Marker)

Shop on Park Avenue and his Bonneville Floral Shop on A Street; L.A. Hartert Real Estate & Insurance Company; John N. Hart's Bakery on Broadway (later known as Hart's Bakery on Northgate Mile); Johnson's Swedish Bakery on Broadway operated by Glen Royce; and Carl Shippen's Bakery on A Street; Hoff Coal & Ice Company and Inland Coal & Ice Company, both on Spud Alley; and Midland Elevator on South Yellowstone Avenue operated by Merwyn Smith; F.W. Woolworth Company; S.H. Kress Company; Royal Shoe Repair; Youngren Brothers Shoe Repair; Berry and Ball dry-

goods store; C.F. Ames Jeweler; Sam-sel's Variety Store, Henry Kunter's store and Leo LeVine's women's ready-to-wear; J.A. "Cat" Thompson's Sporting Goods Store; Larch & Merrill Tire Company; Tex McNeil's Bon Villa Club on Broadway and his Cheerio Club on Park Avenue; Tom Smallwood's Bar on Shoup Avenue; "Buzz" Quinn's Bar on Park Avenue; Carl Monsen's Samoa Club, Chuck Jachetta's Topper Club who later operated the lounge in the Stardust Restaurant on Lindsay Boulevard, and bars on First Street and on Second Street.



Other businesses that have been here for a number of years include Forde Johnson Oil Company, Conrad & Bischoff Oil Company, Boozer Oil Company, Wright Oil & Tire Company, Alex D. Creek Oil Company, and Anthony & Rowan

Oil Company; Ron Sayer's Automobile Agency on Northgate Mile, and at Shoup and F Street (began as Willys Motors in 1938 with his father, William Sayer as owner); Jack A. Wood Funeral Home (took over the Dinwoodey Mortuary on Dec. 1, 1925); Buck-Sullivan Funeral Home (originally owned by Virgil F. McHan and Orland C. Buck, later by Buck and William "Bill" Sullivan, now by Leon Manning and Theron Miller); Williams Funeral Home on E Street owned for a number of years by Leo A. Williams, then by Williams and Paul Coltrin, now known as Coltrin-Ecker Colonial Mortuary with Paul Coltrin and Reg Ecker as owners, at their new building on First Street; C.C. Anderson Company now the Bon Marche; Montgomery Ward & Company, on Shoup and B Street; Boise-Payette Lumber Company, now Boise Cascade Corporation; Max Kerr & Sons Lumber Company; White Star Laundry located on North Capital Avenue and A Street, operated by Arch Wackerli and Earl Nelson and later by Bob Wackerli; and Home Service Laundry on C Street.

Safeway Food Chain's first store in Idaho Falls was on Broadway, later moving to E Street and Yellowstone Avenue, and then to the Country Club Mall. Another store was later opened in Hall Park Plaza on East 17th Street. Albertson's opened its first store here on North Capital Avenue, across from The Post-Register, later moving to First Street and North Holmes Avenue. Later it opened a super market on East 17th Street and South Holmes Avenue, and still later established super markets in the Country Club Mall, and on West Broadway and Skyline Drive. Buttrey's established its super market on First Street. Smith Food King & Drug anchored the shopping center built in 1977 at Woodruff Avenue and First Street by Price Rentals Development of Salt Lake City.

Besides Anderson Brothers Bank, which later became First Security Bank of Idaho with Victor Austin, Minnie M. Hitt, Tom Wasley and Ernest A. Logan as officers; other financial institutions serving the community included American National Bank with Bowen Curley as



Farmers and Merchants Bank (Photo courtesy Joe Marker)



Broadway ~ Idaho Falls, Idaho



Park Avenue ~ Idaho Falls, Idaho

president (later to be headed by D. F. Richards); in more recent years known as Idaho First National Bank and today West One; The Farmers and Merchants Bank managed by C.A. Spath; First Federal Savings & Loan Association managed by Worth D. Wright.

The Bank of Commerce was established here on Aug. 3, 1959 at 1020 Northgate Mile, with F.M. Meikle, Sr. as its first president. Other officers were S.M. Meikle, Robert Smith and Richard N. Adams. Adams became its president in 1970, and today is its chief executive officer, with Julian Cowley as president. The bank has expanded until today it has ten offices, including the main office on Northgate Mile. The others are the downtown office at Yellowstone Avenue and A Street, Skyline Drive & Rainier; East 17th Street, Shelley, Ririe, Arco, Mud Lake, Dubois and the Idaho Falls Country Club Mall. Its board of directors today includes W.E. Arrington, chairman; Richard N. Adams, vice chairman; Delbert V. Groberg, L.F. "Bish" Jenkins, Gale Clement, John W. Erb and Wallace Reed.

The Bank of Eastern Idaho, William F. "Bill" Rigby president, opened September 25, 1985, at the corner of B Street and North Capital Avenue. Other directors of the bank besides Rigby are William DeMott, Ralph Hartwell, Hal Latin, Robert Ovard, Henry Bennett, Charles Rice and Fred Thompson. It is the second bank to have that name here. The original Bank of Eastern Idaho was operated at the same location from 1947 to 1957, when it was acquired by the Transamerica Corporation and the name was changed to Bank of Idaho. The Bank of Idaho later became the First Interstate Bank of Idaho, which is now managed here by Jeff Jones, vice president.

Valley Bank opened here Dec. 17, 1979, in its new modern building at Broadway and South Capital Avenue, almost on the site of the first bank in Idaho — the Anderson Brothers Bank. Steve M. Meikle is chairman of the board of directors, and R. James "Jim" Meikle, president. Bill Rigby was vice president and manager of the main office when it opened. The bank now has branches in the Country Club Mall, Ammon, Driggs, Ashton, St. Anthony, Rexburg, Blackfoot, Pocatello and Burley.

Broadway, Idaho Falls, Idaho, 1949;
Park Avenue, Idaho Falls, Idaho, 1949
(Photos courtesy Perk's)

Fifty-three years ago, on August 28, 1936, the first livestock auction was held at the Idaho Livestock Auction Company on Northgate Mile in Idaho Falls. Livestock is still being sold today. Original owners of the firm were W. Brad Minor and Hans Jagers, both of whom came from Alliance, Neb.; Guy Garrett of Gillette, Wyo., and James E. Manning, a livestock dealer from Grand Island, Nebraska. F. William "Bill" Gourley was the first auctioneer. In 1938, Garrett and Manning sold their interests in the business to Floyd E. Skelton; while Jagers and Minor sold their interests to local businessmen. When all of that trading was over, the owners in December, 1938, were John J. Poitevin, E.W. Finlayson, F.W. Gourley, Arch Wackerli, Earl R. Nelson, Max Clark and Floyd E. Skelton. In 1945, Finlayson, Wackerli, Nelson, Max Clark and the estate of John J. Poitevin sold their stock to F.W. Gourley, Floyd Skelton, Ray Skelton and S.R. Spencer. Gourley sold his stock in the business in 1948, and Ray Skelton sold his stock in 1961 to his son Leon Skelton. Its present owners are Ray and Leon Skelton.

Early-day lawyers included H.K. Linger and D. Worth Clark, who was a brother of Barzilla W. and Chase A. Clark, and father of U.S. Senator D. Worth Clark, Jr. Other longtime attorneys here were Arthur W. Holden, Harry Holden, Edwin M. Hol-

den, Otto E. McCutcheon, Clency St. Clair, (later his sons, Gilbert and Robert), Ralph L. Albaugh, D.E. Rathbun, Alvin E. Denman, E.A. Owen, Paul T. Peterson, A.H. Wilkie, A.A. Merrill, LaRue H. Merrill, C.J. Taylor, Henry S. Martin, Boyd R. Thomas, and Faber F. Tway. In later years Arthur W. Holden's two sons, William S. Holden and Robert Holden were attorneys in their father's law firm.

Longtime general contractors in the community are Burggraf Construction Company started by Nick Burggraf and operated today by Robert "Bob" Burggraf; Arrington Construction Company operated by Woodrow E. Arrington, Ellingford Excavating, H-K Contractors, Heyrend Construction Company operated by Floyd Heyrend, Ormond Construction Company operated by Keith Ormond; C. Reinart & Sons, Skidmore Construction and Millwork, Briggs Builders, Grimmatt Building & Supply, and Vern Clark & Sons Construction. W.C. Burns Construction Company was in business here for many years.

In 1903-04, the R.L. Polk Business Directory listed Idaho Falls with a population of 1,400, with seven blacksmiths and seven saloons.

Bonneville County was created on Feb. 17, 1911, from Bingham County. Bonneville County commissioners on July 9, 1912 purchased the site at the west end of C Street on which to build the courthouse, paying



Bonneville County Courthouse, 1920 (Photo courtesy John Beckman)



Hotel Rogers construction site, above; and “Brunt” Rogers, opposite (Photos courtesy Joe Marker)



Groundbreaking ceremony for new downtown post office, 1914 (Photo courtesy Joe Marker)

\$7,600 for the property. They called for bids to erect the courthouse on October 21, 1919, awarding the contract on Dec. 1, 1919, to W.H. and E.M. Holden. Another contract was awarded June 7, 1920, to North

Pacific Construction Company of which F.K. Mittry was the manager, to complete the building.

The first silent motion picture shot in Idaho was filmed in 1915 at the American Legion War Bonnet Roundup at Reno Park by the Reel-plays Corporation of Chicago. The film titled, "The Cowpuncher" depicted some typical rodeo scenes. One of the "extras" in that movie was Paul D. Fisher, a native of Idaho Falls, who was 12 years old at the time and rode his pony "Duke".

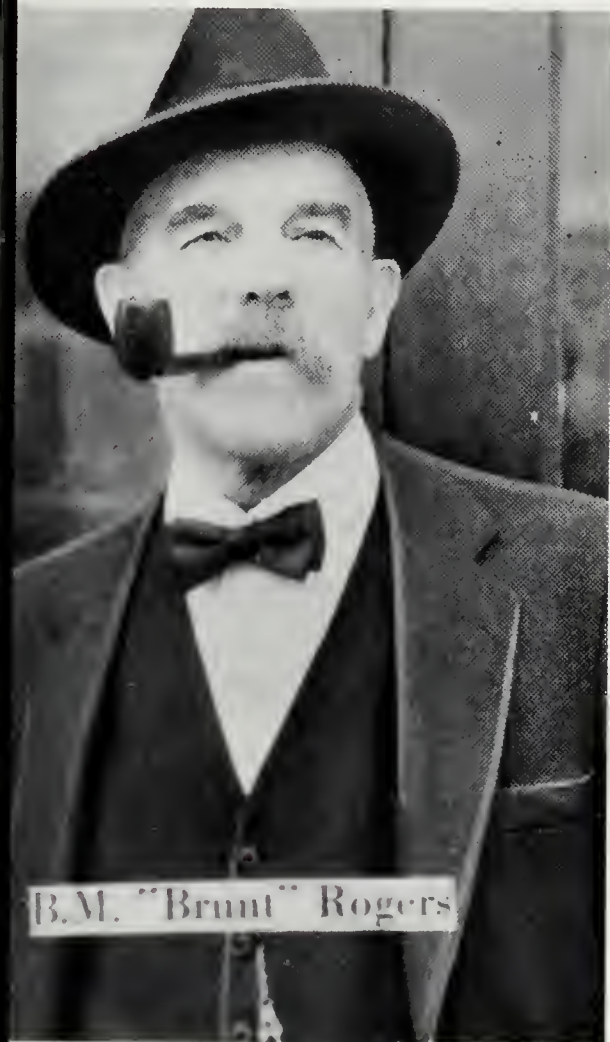
Construction on the downtown Federal Building (Post Office) on Park Avenue and C Street got under-way Aug. 28, 1914. It was closed when the new Eagle Rock Post Office was opened in July, 1988, on North Capital Avenue and G Street. The modern Post Office on 4th Street and Freeman Avenue was opened in 1958. Among the longtime postmasters here were Joe Morley and Parley Rigby.

Among the larger hotels downtown besides Nate Porter's Hotel, was the Cutter Hotel on Shoup Avenue and B Street; the Eleanore Hotel operated by Fred Chapin on Broadway and Yellowstone Avenue, where Denning's Showcase is now located. Chapin was the first manager of the three-story Rogers Hotel, built by B.M. "Brunt" Rogers, which opened in 1937 on Shoup Avenue and B

Street. Some years later an annex was added facing B Street. Its coffee shop and dining room were operated for many years by William "Bill" Campbell, featuring his famous "dollar" coffee. The Rogers Hotel building is now an office building owned by Richard "Dick" Clayton, Sr. Other large hotels downtown included the Eleanore Hotel on Broadway managed by Fred Chapin, and Grand Hotel, also in the same block of Broadway owned and operated by Ira Fisher.

The Idaho Hotel on C Street and North Capital Avenue was built and owned by Frederick Christopher Hansen, the father of Mrs. Nick Burggraf. The Hart-Ellsworth Auto Company, which sold Nash automobiles, occupied the southwest front portion on the main floor. The car agency was owned by John Hart, father of Cecil E. Hart, and Frank Ellsworth, Sr., father of Frank B. Ellsworth, Jr. and Jack B. Ellsworth. The hotel was later owned by Ira J. Taylor and still later by Ross Gillespie, who had clerked in the hotel in 1945, with single rooms renting for \$1 and \$1.50, with a centralized bathroom. The hotel closed in 1979. It was then converted into an office building by Howard M. Henson, who owned the structure in 1980.

By far the largest and most impressive hotel in Idaho Falls is the Bon-



B.M. "Brunt" Rogers



Tenth Street well starts to gush (Photo courtesy Joe Marker)

neville at Constitution Way and Park Avenue which was built by the Idaho Falls Community Hotel Corporation in 1925-26, comprised of local business and civic leaders in the community. O.A. Johannesen, a prominent Idaho Falls attorney, was president of the corporation. The five-story, fire-proof brick hotel was built at a cost of \$300,000, with an addition constructed in 1950. Its first manager was William "Billy" Gill, who came here from Salt Lake City where he was assistant manager of the Hotel Utah. The executive committee for financing and building the Bonneville Hotel read like a "Who's Who" of Idaho Falls business and civic leaders. They were W.L. Shattuck, chairman; H.C. Austin, Arthur Ball, F.A. Craine, Fred A. Carleson, Dr. G.B. Crabtree, L.M. Earl, Ralph Edmunds, Ralph Fullenwider, Fred Gustafson, M.J. Hackett, L.A. Hartert, J. Wesley Holden, J.C. Jacobsen, O.A. Johannesen, Paul M. Lee, Arthur Lundblade, Frank E. McClure, Edwin F. McDermott, J.L.



Bonneville Hotel on Constitution Way (Photo by Quincy Jensen)



Interstate 15, opened October, 1952 (Photo courtesy Joe Marker)

Milner, F.L. Pasley, John J. Poitevin, F.A. Randall, A.T. Shane, William S. Snyder, Dr. H.D. Spencer, Eugene S. Trask, Dr. Jabez W. West, Mrs. O.K. Wilbur, Clency St. Clair, Parley Rigby and Julius Marker. Today, the hotel, with the four upper floors converted into modern apartments, and the main floor housing a coffee shop, several large dining rooms, and a lounge, is owned by Richard (Dick) Clayton, Sr., Sam D. Wong and Wally Gee. The building for a time had been owned by D.F. Richards and Jim Bennett, local bankers, before Clayton, Wong and Harry Yee purchased it in February, 1976 from the Bennett estate. When Yee died several years ago in California, Gee, a son-in-law of Wong, became one of the partners.

A popular dance hall in eastern Idaho from the 1920s through the 1950s was Les Bybee's Wandamere ballroom on South Yellowstone Highway in Idaho Falls. The spacious dance hall attracted dancers from miles around for semi-weekly swing sessions usually held on Wednesday and Saturday nights, with admission of \$1 to \$1.50. The Wandamere brought the "Big Bands" of that era to Idaho Falls, including Phil Harris, Ted Fio Rito, Louis "Satchmo" Armstrong, Tommy and Jimmy Dorsey and Paul Whiteman. The ballroom was also the gathering place for weddings and receptions, family reunions, LDS Gold and Green Balls, and sporting events. Wandamere

Ballroom served the area until the roof caved in from the heavy snow in the winter of February, 1949.

Another progressive step in the history of Idaho Falls, occurring on Oct. 31, 1962, was the opening of the section of Interstate Highway 15 from Bassett north of Idaho Falls to Blackfoot. The Blackfoot to Chubbuck section was opened to travel since November, 1961, and from Chubbuck to Pocatello earlier in 1962. A ribbon-cutting was held south of the Broadway Interchange with Idaho Governor Robert E. Smylie as the guest speaker. Other dignitaries participating in the event were W.C. Burns of Idaho Falls, chairman of the Idaho Highway Board; Mayor W.J. O'Bryant of Idaho Falls; Gordon Nelson, president of the Idaho Falls Rotary Club; Lyman Pierce, chairman of the Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce Highway Committee and committeemen Ray Goshert, Luther B. Squires, Joe Lyon and Glenn Thomas; G. Bryce Bennett of Boise, state highway engineer, and Blaine E. Sessions, sixth district state highway engineer. The Idaho Falls High School Band directed by A.L. Gifford performed. John Smith, vice president of the Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce, was master of ceremonies, in the absence of Robert Baughman, chamber president. Smylie said, "This marks the opening of Idaho's

first two-city freeway, which stretches 57.2 miles from Pocatello to Idaho Falls and north to the Jefferson County line."

Larry Crnkovich came up from Blackfoot in 1984 and purchased Stoddard Ford Agency at 980 W. Broadway from Bruce Stoddard and renamed it Broadway Ford. Stoddard had been the Ford dealer here for a number of years and at one time Howard Mead was his partner. Crnkovich also became the Toyota, Lincoln and Mercury dealer here in February, 1989, when he purchased Monte Wight Motors at 402 E. Anderson Street from Gary Wight and Dale Mickelson, and renamed it Rocky Mountain Toyota, Lincoln and Mercury Agency. Crnkovich had operated 20th Century Ford, Lincoln, Mercury, Chrysler and Dodge dealership in Blackfoot for a number of years.

In more recent years the shopping malls came onto the Idaho Falls scene, with the first large one, The Country Club Shopping Center on Northgate Mile and North Holmes, being opened in April, 1970, built by Daum Industries. Anchoring this mall are Sears-Roebuck Company, Lamonts the Family Clothing Store, and Ernst Home Center. Shawne Rumble is the mall coordinator today. Zane C. Hall built the Hall Park Plaza on the 1500-1600 blocks

coordinator today. Zane C. Hall built the Hall Park Plaza on the 1500-1600 blocks of East 17th Street, in January, 1973, anchored by Safeway's now IGA, Sprouse-Reitz Company, and Samons of Idaho, Inc. Grand Teton Mall at 2300 E. 17th Street had 52 stores in its large complex when it opened Aug. 1, 1984, with J.C. Penney Company as the anchor stores. It was built and operated by Price Development Company of Salt Lake City, and represented an investment of \$40 million. Today there are 73 stores in the mall with Craig Horton as mall manager. It is owned now by Equitable Real Estate Company of Atlanta, Georgia.

Airport Plaza on North Skyline Drive was opened in 1979. Businesses occupying the plaza are Hartwell Corporation of which Ralph Hartwell is president and Forde Johnson, Jr., vice president; Energy Services, Inc., headed by Jay Kunze; Forsgren-Perkins & Associates, PA consulting engineers; Ormond Construction Company of which Keith Ormond is president; Airport Plaza Dental Lab and Dr. Steven J. Larsen, DDS, and International Business Machines Idaho Falls Office, managed by Arden Nelson.

Twin Buttes Highway opens. Left to right: Fisher Ellsworth, O.W. Buxton, Edson Deal, Leonard E. Johnston, Roscoe Rich. (Photo courtesy Joe Marker)



Richard I. "Dick" Clayton, Sr. and associates are responsible for developing two mini-shopping centers in downtown buildings, one on Park Avenue and B Street, and the other on Shoup Avenue in the Rogers Building.

The Post-Register ran a banner headline on its front page March 23, 1949, announcing that the U.S. Atomic Energy Commission had decided to establish its National Reactor Station in the desert west of Idaho Falls and east of Arco. It was a momentous piece of news for Idaho Falls and all of eastern Idaho.

A year earlier the AEC was ready to take the first major steps toward developing a broad based nuclear power reactor technology. Construction of several development facilities was authorized, including a high-flux material testing reactor (MTR), an experimental fast breeder reactor (EBR-1), and a prototype pressurized water reactor (STR), the latter for submarine propulsion. The decision was made to locate all three facilities at the National Reactor Testing Station with the Division of Reactor Development being set up to direct the program.

Weather

Idaho Falls and vicinity—Cloudy with few showers Wednesday night and Thursday. Minimum Wednesday morning 29, maximum Tuesday afternoon, 56. Precipitation, .22 of an inch; total since Monday night 1.1 inches.

New Volume No. XVIII

Idaho Falls For Atomic

Spending Cut Backers Feel New Setback

Reduction in Budget
Plans Defeated as
Senate Passes Second
Appropriations Bill

WASHINGTON, May 18. (AP)—Senators trying to whittle federal spending refused Wednesday to give up, despite another setback.

The latest reverse—a victory for administration budget plans—came late Tuesday when the senate wiped out its previous order calling for a five per cent cut in the operating costs of the labor department and the federal security agency. The reduction could have amounted to about 11 million dollars.

After killing that economy order, the senate passed by voice vote and sent back to the house a bill carrying two billion 409 million dollars for the two agencies for the fiscal year starting July 1. That figure is 185 million dollars more than the house voted.

It was the second regular appropriations bill passed by the senate. Last week the economy group failed in an attempt to cut five

Russ Try 'Subtle' Blockade

BERLIN, May 18. (AP)—German officials charged Wednesday that Russia is seeking to establish a "subtle blockade" of Berlin.

C. A. Dix, American government transport expert, said that trucks are now held at the Soviet zone frontier. Official reports said the guards were demanding that truckers present permits from the Soviet east German economic commission for entry of all cargoes, consigned to west Berlin zonal points.

Flood, Wind Toll Now 14

Texas, Oklahoma
Estimate 13,200
Homeless, 100 Hurt

By The Associated Press
The three day death toll from floods and tornadoes in Texas and Oklahoma boosted to 14 Wednesday. States estimated 13,200 persons were homeless, and

The world received its first usable electricity from nuclear power when in December, 1951, the AEC lit up the town of Arco with power from the EBR-1. The EBR-1 is now a national historic landmark open for tours. In 1953, the prototype of the power plant for the world's first nuclear powered submarine, the Nautilus, was built and tested at the NRTS, now known as the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy. It continues to train and graduate 2,000 Navy personnel each year to operate the nuclear powered Navy. Since that time, some of the most advanced energy research in the world has

The Post-Register

ated Press—
EA Service

Idaho Falls, Idaho, Wednesday, May 18, 1949

Member Audit Bureau
of Circulation

★ 166

Weather for the past 24 hours			
Station	Max	Min	Preip.
Boise	71	52	02
Chicago	89	67	03
Phoenix	98	58	00
Salt Lake City	61	52	06
Washington	75	63	00

Is Selected as Headquarters Atomic Reactor Testing Station

Wreathed in Atomic Smiles



BUBBLING WITH EXUBERANCE over selection of Idaho Falls as the "administrative city" for the Idaho atomic reactor plant are these three Idaho Falls leaders who are at the helm of the city's atomic planning. Showering each other with congratulations they are left to right: E. F. McDermott, chairman of the Greater Idaho Falls committee, Mayor Thomas L. Sutton, and William S. Holden, member of the Greater Idaho Falls planning organization who with Mayor Sutton represented Idaho Falls at recent hearings of the atomic energy commission at Washington, D. C. Additional pictures may be found on pages 6 and 7. (Post-Register staff photo.)

Proximity to Plant, Plus Facilities Here Provide City With Central Office

**Citizenry Swell
With Pride on
Office Location**

The Idaho Falls citizenry swelled with pride Wednesday after hearing that their city had been chosen as the "administrative city" for the new atomic reactor plant in the Lost river desert.

Especially jubilant were members of the Greater Idaho Falls committee who Wednesday capped long, arduous hours of planning and study in arraying the city's offerings for representatives of the atomic energy commission. The AEC, with Bion Philipson, program director for the work, has been conducting a survey of facilities in East Idaho communities for the past several weeks.

A Crucial Step

"We are very happy about the decision of the AEC to locate its headquarters for the Idaho atomic development in Idaho Falls. The establishment of the reactor plant in the area represents a crucial step in the economic development of East Idaho and location of the

Likes Idaho Falls



LEONARD E. Johnston, above, manager of the Idaho atomic reactor development, above who announced Wednesday that he and his administrative staff have

**Negotiations Start
For Use of Annex
To Rogers Hotel**

The United States atomic energy commission announced Wednesday the selection of Idaho Falls as headquarters for the operations office for the new national nuclear reactor testing station. The announcement was made by Leonard E. Johnston, manager of the Idaho operators for the AEC, in a special news release received Wednesday from Washington, D. C.

Negotiations are under way to locate the administrative offices in the new annex of the Rogers hotel which is scheduled for completion next month. Mr. Johnston will open the office as soon as possible, according to the release.

Facilities Cited

Selection of Idaho Falls was made after a survey of several southeastern Idaho communities. A major factor in selection of Idaho Falls was its proximity to the testing station site combined with availability of housing, educational and hospital facilities for AEC personnel and their families.

taken place at the Idaho site.

Contractors associated with the DOE operations at the INEL include EG&G Idaho, Inc., Argonne National Laboratory, MK Ferguson Company, Protection Technology Idaho, Inc., Ralph M. Parsons Company, Rockwell-INEL-Human Resources, Westinghouse Electric Company Atomic Power Division, Inspector General Office of Investigations, Bureau of Mines, and Pittsburgh Naval Reactors Idaho Branch.

The AEC's first Idaho Operations Office was located in the City Hall, then moved to larger quarters in the Hotel Rogers Annex on B Street, until the headquarters building was

constructed in 1952 on 2nd Street between North Holmes Avenue and Freeman Avenue. This facility was replaced by its office building on 785 DOE Place on Aug. 9, 1985. The total number of site employees today is 10,500.

There were 52 reactors built at the site, of which 14 are operable.

First manager of the AEC's Idaho Operations Office here was Leonard E. "Bill" Johnston, a native of Bradley, S.D., who had been in charge of the AEC's Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory in Schenectady, N.Y. J. Bion Philipson was its program director,

and Wesley C. "Wes" Funk, assistant manager. An atomic planning committee was appointed in 1949 by the Idaho Falls Chamber of Commerce to integrate and coordinate planning activities of the city and its hinterland to its responsibilities in relation to the atomic reactor development here. Named chairman of that committee was E.F. McDermott, publisher and general manager of The Post-Register; K.D. Rose, president of Rogers Brothers Seed Company, treasurer; Cy Davis, secretary-manager of the Chamber of Commerce,

Atomic Smiles (Photo courtesy Quincy Jensen)

secretary; Joe Call, chamber president; Ralph L. Albaugh, Don Kugler, Worth D. Wright, J. Earl Evans, David M. Sweeney, Forde L. Johnson, William S. Holden, Delbert V. Groberg, Ken P. Slusser, B.L. Harris, George W. Watkins, Sterling W. Jensen, and Aden Hyde.

Dedication of the Twin Buttes Highway 20 from Idaho Falls to the INEL site took place Oct. 8, 1951. Joe Call, a well known Idaho Falls business and civic leader, was the master of ceremonies held on the highway at the site. Speakers include Leonard E. "Bill" Johnston, the first manager of the AEC's Idaho Operations Office; W. Fisher Ellsworth of Idaho Falls, a member of the State Highway Board, who cut the ribbon; Roscoe Rich of Burley, chairman of the Idaho Highway Board; Idaho Lt.-Gov. Edson H. Deal of Nampa, and John Buxton, Teton County state senator.

Thanks to the efforts of the Bonneville County Historical Society,

Idaho Falls and Bonneville County now have their own first-class Bonneville Museum, which opened July 4, 1985, in the old Carnegie Public Library on Eastern Avenue and Elm Street. Prior to that time the museum exhibits were displayed on the lower floor of the Bonneville County Courthouse. Among those responsible for bringing about the museum were John E. Weida, June Oler Howard and Bernice McCowin, all of whom have served as president of the society; Doris and Nic Backstrom, Lois and Ray Nikum, Frances Skelton, Bob Bates, Linden Bateman and Earl Burdick, current president of the society. The museum preserves the heritage of the community, telling in pictures, words and displays the history of the county and city. A replica of the community's first business street — Eagle Rock Street — recreated in the basement of the museum by Bates, and others, was opened this year to the public.



Modern Woodmen of America, above (Photo courtesy Joe Marker); Centennial Plus 20 (Photo courtesy Post-Register)



Peter Toth's Indian (Photo left, A. Bitton, right, R. Bower)



Remembering . . .

Idaho Falls Symphony

In the spring of 1949 a group of Idaho Falls musicians gathered to begin rehearsals of Handel's "The Messiah" to be given in December. Under the auspices of the Idaho Falls Music Club, the Idaho Falls Symphony was formed. Professor Harold Mealy of Idaho State College was asked to audition musicians and place principals. Marcel Bird of the public school music department conducted the first concert April 26, 1950 with forty-four musicians in the Junior High auditorium.

Professor Mealy became conductor for the second season and served until the end of 1960. During these years many local, regional and national guest artists appeared with the symphony. On January 21, 1954 Community Concerts presented the Idaho Falls Symphony in its first concert in the new Civic Auditorium. February 17, 1955 was the date of first IFS Children's Concert (Music Club sponsored.) A Symphony Auxiliary was formed in 1957 to encourage growth of good music and the symphony here. Cooperative exchanges of the Idaho Falls and Pocatello symphony players began in 1958. In the mid 60's the IFSS (Idaho Falls Symphony Society) with a matching grant from the Idaho Commission on the Arts started an In-School Music program for training string players — Betty Benthin Petree was director of the project. The program was later incorporated into District #91 schools.

During these first forty years of the symphony's life and through the efforts of it and its auxiliaries, Civic Auditorium acoustics have been upgraded, talented maestros have conducted and audiences have been given good music through live performances. Yet the Idaho Falls Symphony members are still volunteer symphony members. It is the only non-college related symphony in Idaho.

— Lowell Jobe

Idaho Falls Music Club

Idaho Falls is one of the finest musical centers in the Rocky Mountain area,



Idaho Falls Symphony (Photo Courtesy of Post-Register)

particularly for the youth. Idaho Falls Music Club was organized in 1912, the same year that Horace Chesbro began tuning and selling pianos here. Both institutions have become powerful influences in the community encouraging serious musical study. Music Club began an annual Music Week in 1923, often focusing on musical families and young musicians. They began Community

Concerts in 1937, Past Presidents Assembly to raise money for young artists in 1944, and have since given hundreds of music scholarships. They assisted in forming the Idaho Falls Symphony in 1949. Symphony Youth auditions began in 1952, with LaMar Barrus, Jr. and Carol Jaeger, first soloists. Auditions have been directed each year by the Symphony Guild (derived from the



President Truman autographing his portrait by Fred Ochi (Photo courtesy of Post-Register)

women's Symphony Auxiliary) formed by Music Club in 1957. In 1987, the guild changed its name to Symphony Friends. Junior Music Club was formed in 1952, and annual music festivals have thrived since from a few hundred festival participants and eight contestants for the young artists concert in 1954 to an astounding seventeen hundred festival participants and fifty-two symphony youth auditioners in the 1988-89 season. In 1977, Idaho Falls Music Teachers Association was formed. In 1989 students of one hundred twenty teachers performed in Junior Music Club festival. The annual Young Artists concert, featuring winning artists, is a highlight of the symphony season.

— Mary Jane Fritzen

President Harry S. Truman campaigned for election in 1948 from the rear platform of his special train at the Idaho Falls Depot. He made a real hit with the crowd by autographing a portrait of him done by Idaho Falls' artist Fred Ochi. Fred had brought the painting to the train and was about to present it to Truman when Secret Service men told him he would have to send the painting to Washington for Truman's autograph. But President Truman heard the conversation and called out "Fred, bring it up here. I'll autograph it right now!"

The First World War I veterans society in the state of Idaho was organized in

February, 1919, at Idaho Falls. At the call of H. G. Knight, then a local newspaperman, returned soldiers in Bonneville County of the First World War met here in February 1919 and perfected the World War Veterans Association of Bonneville County. Paul T. Peterson, a local attorney and civic leader, was chosen as its first president with Dr. J.E. Bennett, a long time Idaho Falls dentist, vice president; Knight as secretary and Sam R. Rostad, who served as city clerk, as treasurer. In August 1919, the association became Bonneville Post 56 of the American Legion, with Peterson chosen as its first commander.

— Joe Marker

John Beckman's photo of men in the last draft for World War I from Bonneville County includes: Beckman, Charlie Bunt, Robert Berggren, Julius Goettsche, Walter Dixon, Norbert Brinkman, Emil Faust, Clifford Egan, Joe Kruse, Herman Winterfeld, Herbert Beam, Elwood Patton, Paul Erickson, Morgan Haroldson, Edwin Safestrom, Emory Wackerli, Axel Kwist, Al Berggren, Erving Anderson, Lou Hammer and Warren Jones. They were inducted August 5, 1918. World War I Vets in 1981 (Photo by Robert Bower)

Saying goodbyes and boarding the train in Idaho Falls, World War I (Photo courtesy Joe Marker)

World War I Memorial on Memorial Drive (Photo courtesy Quincy Jensen)

In 1989 a new memorial honoring all veterans overlooks the Snake River facing west between the river and Memorial Drive.





Remembering . . .

Area residents used to put on their Sunday best clothes to go to the big Barnum & Bailey or Ringling Brothers Circuses in Idaho Falls, usually staged on the west side of the river. The circus parade downtown preceding the performances in the huge tents on the west side attracted large crowds. At one of these performances a fierce wind came up, the big tents buckled and whether the wind, sparks from train wheels igniting dry grass (many versions are told) or loud noise frightened the elephants (who were being watered nearby), the great pachyderms charged for the river. Tipping buggies over on their way, they tumbled over the bank and into the river. All but one swam to the east bank. One went on down the main channel. A trainer managed to get the animal, climbed on and rode "Old Mom" along the bank, finally coaxing her out. The elephants had "a ball" blowing water. The trainers later swam out and got the animals ashore. The elephants hadn't more than got to shore than they headed for downtown with townspeople scurrying for cover to keep from getting run over by the huge animals. Eventually the trainers managed to roundup the elephants and get them back to the circus.

Listening and dancing to the music of local musicians Kenny Walker, Benny Brown, Kent Naylor, Phil Keefer and George Warner playing for dances at Bybee's Wandamere Dance Hall on South Yellowstone Highway. Back in the depression days of 1930's you could buy either a hamburger or a hot dog, a bowl of soup or chili, or a piece of pie — each for a nickel from Orson Arnold's "Nickel Spot" on A Street across from the Paramount Theatre. Fullenwider's Apple Pie Inn put out a delicious barbecue beef sandwich that would melt in your mouth and homemade pies. Listening to the "Lion of Idaho" orator United State Senator William E. Borah speak to a capacity crowd in the old LDS Tabernacle on E Street and North Capitol Avenue. You could always count on a good home-cooked meal when the York or Riverdale Grange put on a feed prepared by such Grange stalwarts as the Seyferts, Moirs, O'Brians, as well as lot of others.

Reading the Sunday morning Salt Lake Tribune while having a cup of coffee in your favorite restaurant. Enjoying a real tasty, large-size malted milk at Joy Drug for a dime, with a Lorna Doone cookie included in the price. Harry Bennett giving the kids a free weenie when they came into Luxton & Bennett's Meat Market with their parents. Going to the Rex Theatre on Friday night for Al Hager's popular "Country Store", where you could win either a sack of groceries, a lamp or a blanket. The kids scrambled down front for the candy kisses Hager would throw from the stage. Kids running out to the street to buy a 5c Farr's ice cream cone from Mr. Haire's horse-drawn ice cream wagon. Watching Owen Heilesen deliver a chunk of ice to a home from a Nels Hoff Coal & Ice horse-drawn wagon. He always chipped off a small chunk of ice for the small fry.

The history of Idaho Falls Airport goes back to April 1911, when the local landing field was located at the Bonneville County Fairgrounds, now Tautphaus Park, according to "Pete" Hill, who served as airport manager for many years in a more recent era. It was during the city administration of Mayor Barzilla W. Clark in 1929 when some two hundred acres of land was purchased in the northwest section of the city for the airport. The following year the grading of the north-south runway took place. During 1960-61, the terminal building and control tower were added during Hill's tenure as manager. Then in 1981 the new present terminal building was completed at a cost of \$5,000,000.00. Jim Thorsen, present manager, said the airport covers over eight hundred acres of ground with an asphaltic surface area of about one hundred acres. All of the city-owned property at the airport is valued today at around \$45,000,000.00

The intersection of Highway 26 with the Ammon-Lincoln Road was dubbed "Beeches Corner" for many years, when it actually should have been spelled "Beach's Corner", says Aaron W. Beach, Jr. of Idaho Falls. He should know since it was his grandfather Aaron W. Beach, Sr., who homesteaded the 180 acres at the site in 1888, and who farmed the property until he died Sept. 19, 1912.

—Joe Marker

John Beckman remembers his father Andrew Beckman telling of these hard times. When Andrew Beckman moved to the homestead in New Sweden he laid out a small cellar with rocks to build a house on. The manager for the Canal Company came by to tell him that the company was not in too good of shape and that many people were leaving. Beckman thought about it then decided to stay. He dug a hole in the side hill and used 1x12's and 2x4's and to build a house (the roof was dirt). The rafters were about 1/2 pitch and that made the sleeping quarters for visitors. The front had a double window and a door. He added a leanto for a kitchen and pantry; and built a chicken house and barn — both dug the same way into the hill.

Keith and Ken Roland remember that folks were self-sufficient. They grew vegetable gardens; tended cows, sheep, chickens, geese, pigs; grew crops of grain and potatoes. They cured their meat by wrapping it in cheesecloth, then burying it in an oat or wheat bin (deep in the bin and the cats took care of the thieving mice). Sauerkraut and pickles were made in crocks. Favorite Sunday picnic



1985 "Air Show" (Photo by Post-Register)

fare was fried chicken, sauerkraut and weenies with all the trimmings. Lemons were purchased for lemonade.

The treat on Saturday was to go to the Lobby for fat weenies and “ketchup”. The Roland twins remember Minnie Hitt. She was a good banker. She had faith in the farmers and they responded in kind. She “could put the paint on” and she used to scratch her head through her dark hair when she thinking. Minni Hitt kept the New Sweden guys above water (a sentiment echoed often by New Sweden farmers).

Edith Sealander tells of a trapper who lived in a cave on the west side of the Sealander property (the desert extends west) who carved a delicate cup and spoon out of juniper wood while spending a winter out there.

Lorna Hammond remembers that seasonal farm help was found at The Lobby in Idaho Falls. Whether single men eager for work or hard working families, these farm workers were an integral part of agricultural production in past times. Hammond remembers a gentleman called Bill Roadfeldt, a hobo, who was clean, honest and helped her family for several seasonal years. And there was a Maas family — fourteen members in total, who, when work was done, would play wonderful music on saw, guitar and tub base.

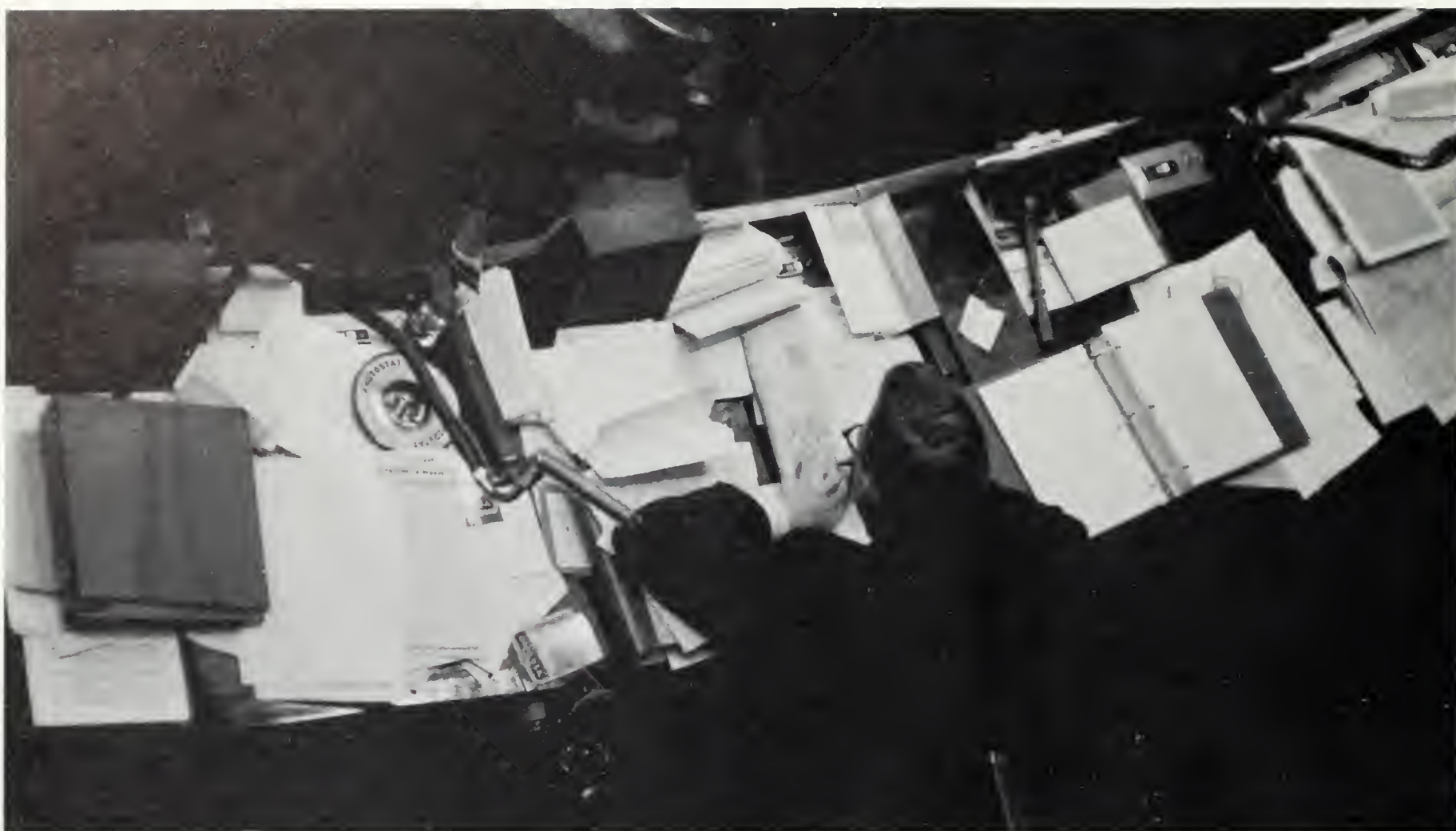


Slip scraper and plow (Photos courtesy of Glen Longhurst)



Farming back then . . . (Photos courtesy of Lowell and Janet Jensen)





Eugene L. Bush, Bonneville County Legislative Representative 1965, during a break.



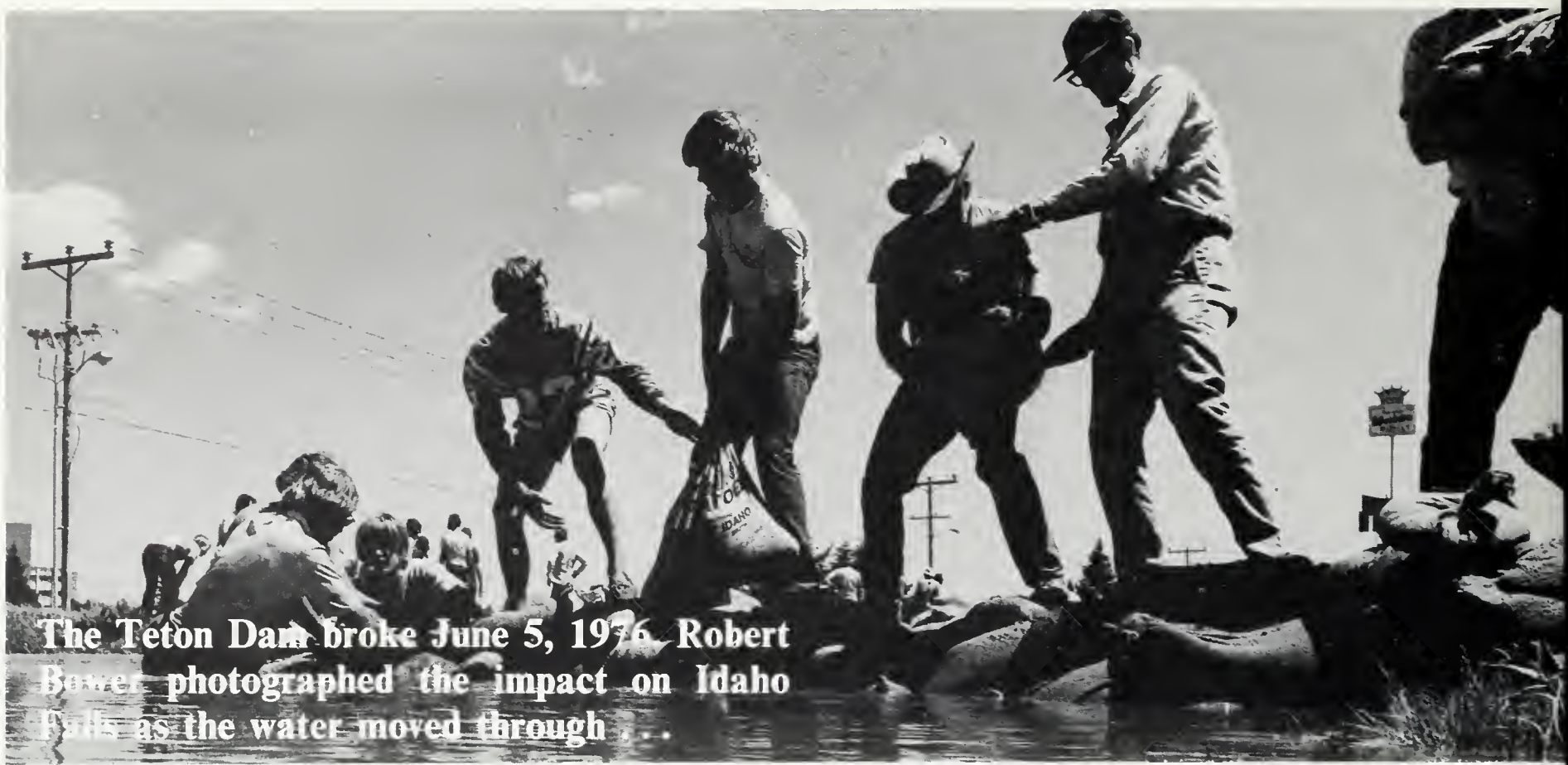
Francis Sima, inventor and last resident on Eagle Rock Street before it was torn down, peers from atop an Eagle rock building the day before destruction be-

gan. (Photo by Mark Campbell) The last days of Eagle Rock Street (Photos by Quincy Jensen)





Exposed channel of the Snake River Canyon was visible at the 4th power plant construction site. (Photo by Robert Bower)

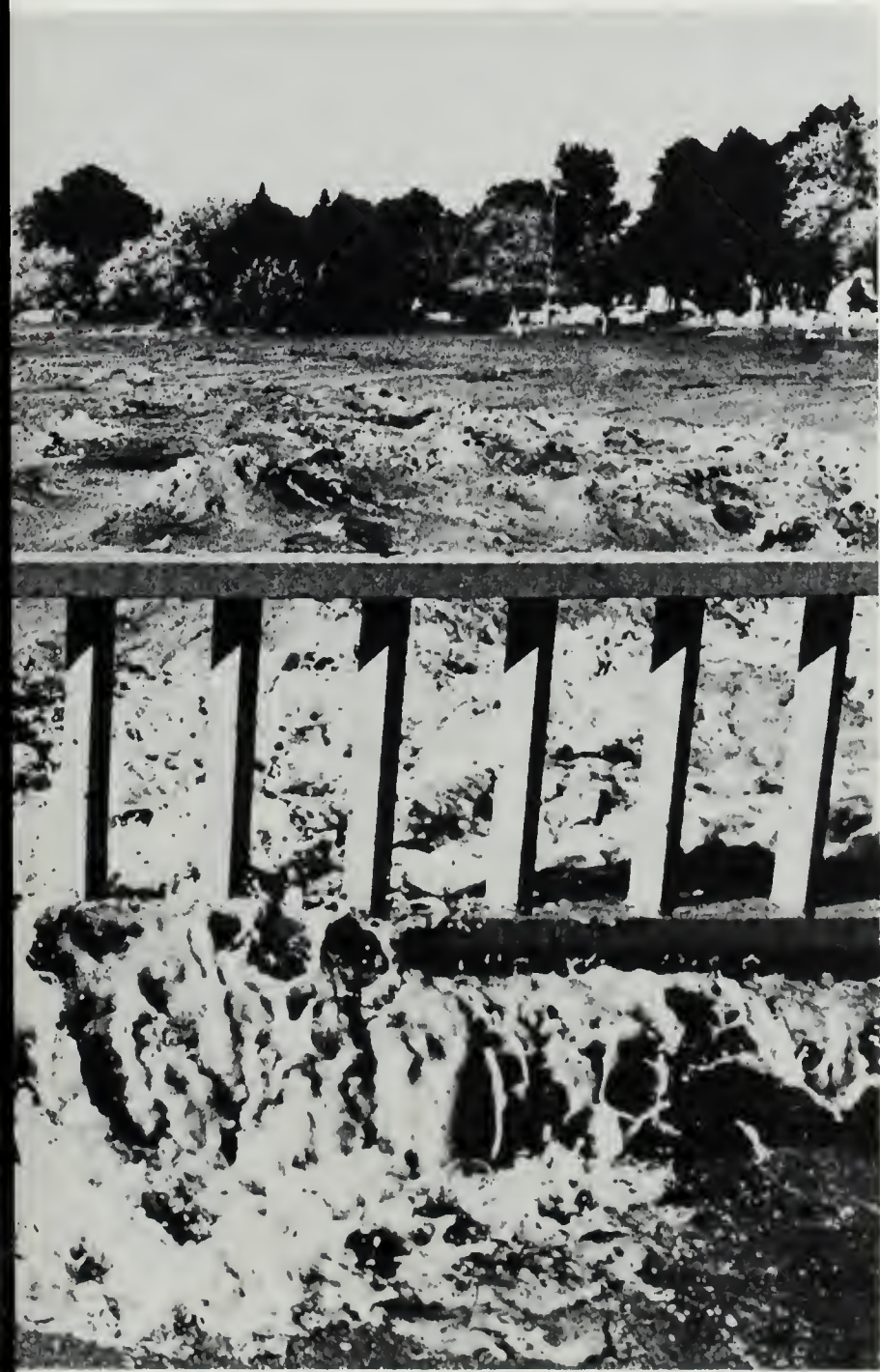


The Teton Dam broke June 5, 1976. Robert Borer photographed the impact on Idaho Falls as the water moved through . . .





Pictured is the valve that brought river water directly to residents in Idaho Falls from the Old Power Plant. (Photo by Q. Jensen)







Aerial view of channel cut to ease the flood waters through downtown Idaho Falls. (Photo by Robert Bower)

This concrete plug (with rebar) slipped through its designated plugging place in the dam. (Photo by Quincy Jensen)

Pictured is the Old Power Plant area — now the city's 4th site. (Photo by Robert Bower)







Aerial 1953 (Photo by Melville's Studio)





Aerial View (Photo by Melville's Studio)



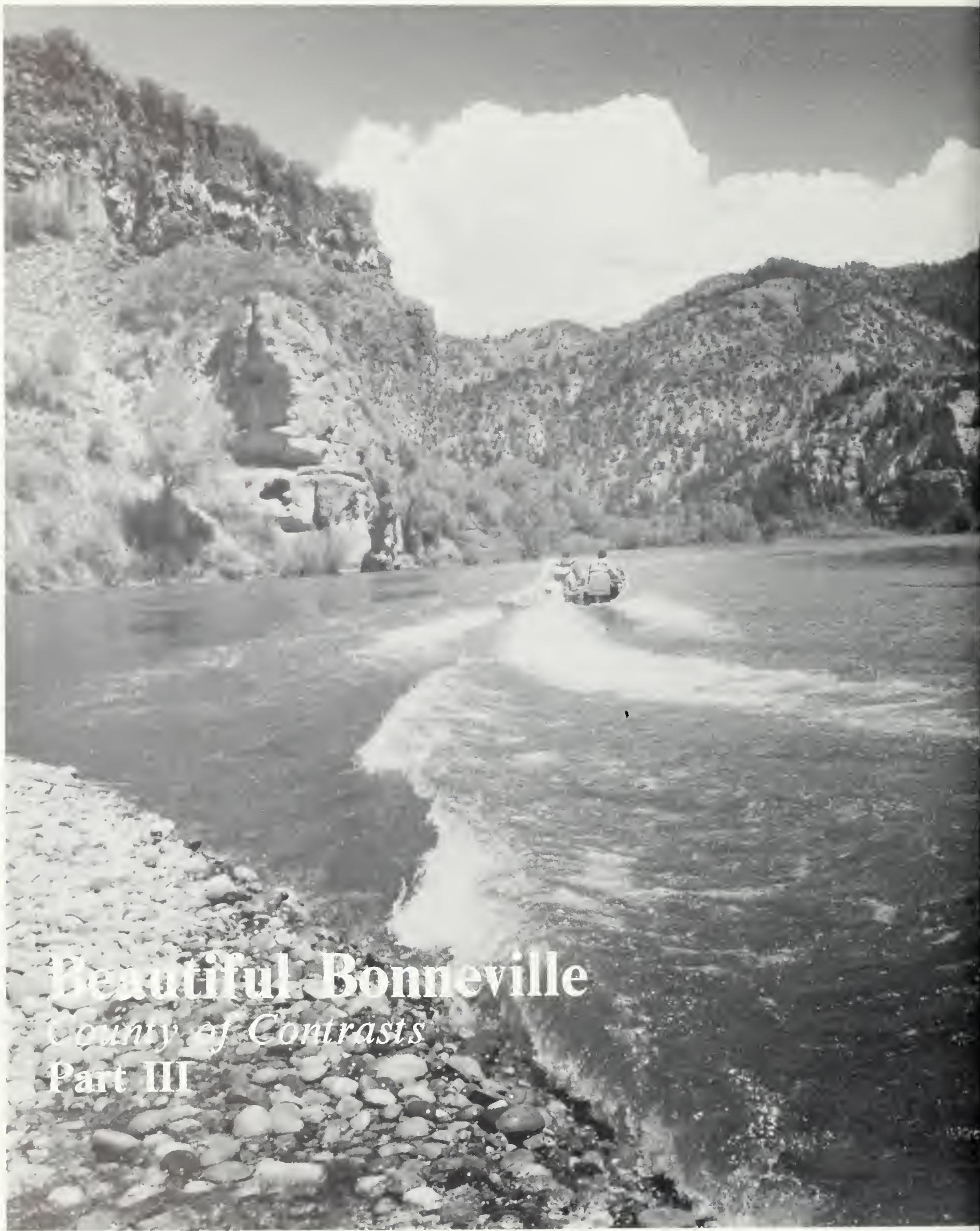


Aerial View (Photo by Melville's Studio)





Aerial 1988. (Photo by Quincy Jensen)



Beautiful Bonneville
Country of Contrasts
Part III



Eastern Bonneville County

Afton Bitton
Editor and Writer

Highway 26 Road to Beauty

Highway 26, having earned a certain renown locally, is a significant entity in Bonneville County. This can be attributed to the fact that it runs through some of the most beautiful scenery in Idaho.

From Idaho Falls, the county seat in the western section, this roadway in its paved wonder heads east in a circuitous manner, constantly arching northward until it reaches Ririe. The route which was adjusted in 1970, now skirts Ririe by about a half mile on the south. The previous highway, however, went along the southern border congruent with the County Line Road a mile or two. Several businesses on the south side of the road are in Bonneville County and all the rest of the town is in Jefferson County.

The former route, commonly known as the Roosevelt Highway, pointed directly east through Poplar. Shortly thereafter, the route edged southward to parallel the South Fork of the Snake River until it reached Clark's Hill where there is now a rest stop and a scenic overlook. Some of the interesting places in this route were the Devil's Dive (a steep dip), Hog's Back and Stauffer Hill.

Canyons and river channels, hills and sagebrush, islands and cottonwoods, plains and grasses, valleys and creeks — but a few of nature's gifts to Eastern Bonneville. (Photo by Robert Bower)

The old route occupied much the same area as the present road from Clark's Hill onward to Palisades. While the river continues northeastward for several miles to Conant Valley, Route 26 starts southward across the plains straight toward Conant Valley, where again it parallels the river. All this time the traveler has been on the south side of the Snake, but as he enters Swan Valley he crosses over a fairly wide bridge and stays on the north side of the stream all the way to the Wyoming line, less than 50 miles further on.

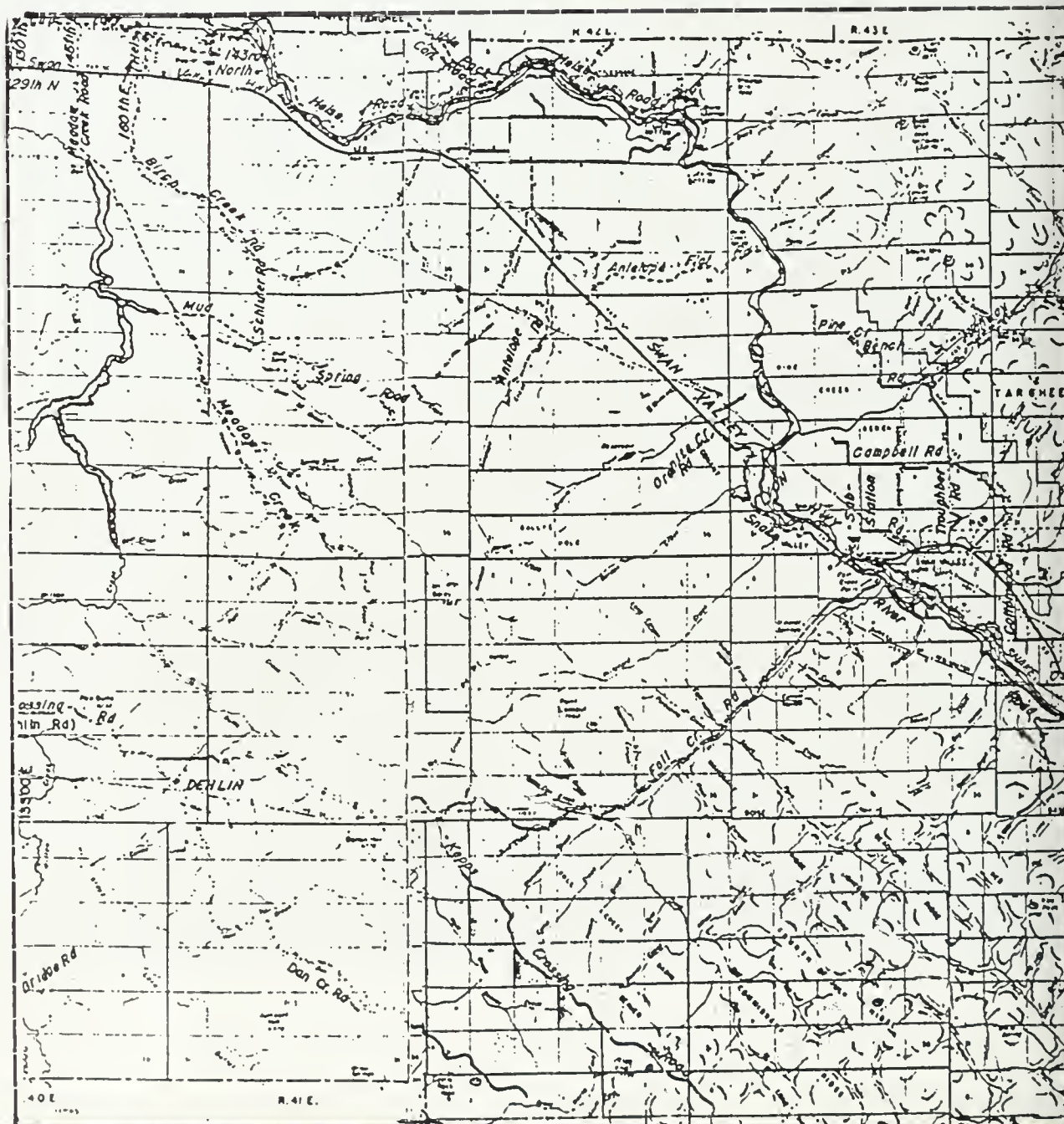
Much of what gives Eastern Bonneville County its importance can be seen from Highway 26, the longest and possibly the best-kept roadway in the county. As one leaves Idaho Falls on this route, he begins to enjoy a rural atmosphere as soon as he clears the city limits and the ambience becomes less and less urban the farther on he goes. Past Beach's Corner and on toward Ririe, a person notices a few suburban style abodes and quite a few farmhouses cuddling up to the road. (Nearly everyone wants to live near a frequently plowed road during the winter).

Off to the left, the Ririe-Shelton cemetery reminds the traveler of his ultimate end and off to the right, spud cellars, sprinkler pipes and metal grain bins remind one that the present highway does indeed avoid any urban impediments. The only hint of anything but agriculture is Hillview E-Z Stop, a combination service station, store and cafe. In the summer, large fields of hay, potatoes and grain are being sprinkled by sophisticated pipe systems on wheels. There are now no sugar beet fields but many motorists remember them — and even miss them. Many also recall when much of the area, especially farther up the road depended on rain for irrigation. Grain storage bins and potato cellars continue to be the main roadside attractions as the car moves toward Antelope. Older homes can be seen in the distance along the old route and many new homes have been built along the revised route.

As the car wheels through the plains of Ririe and later the flats of Antelope, one can see that not everyone is an extrovert. A number of houses are tucked

back into the pines and aspens. The plains between the Big Hole mountains in the Targhee Forest on the north and the Caribou Forest on the south seem to stretch outward as the car wheels eastward. It is easy to catch a feeling of remoteness, a wondering about earlier days, and it is obvious that most of the pioneer cabins and many of the abodes of the more recent years have been vacated. On the plains, fields of grain — tender and green in spring, gold in the fall and glistening white in the winter — impress the viewer with their vastness, especially off to the north toward the tree-lined South Fork chasm, backed by dark blue, often snowcapped mountains.

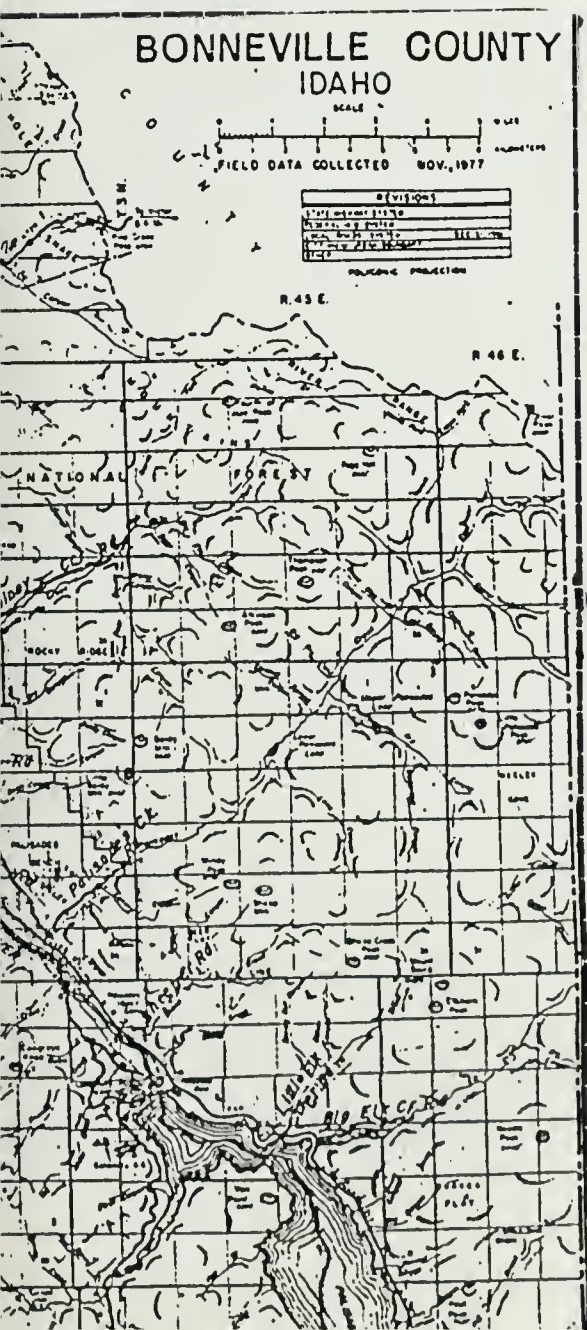
Gliding past Ririe on the revised route, which skirts Ririe, one is impressed by the care given to the cemetery. Food for the car and for the stomach as well can be purchased a block onward at the Hillview E-Z Stop—a service station, store and cafe combination. This convenient stop, which arose with the new route, was at one time an Amoco service station owned by Gail and Joann Larsen. The land was provided by Joann's parents Mr. and Mrs. Lyman Bowles. (Photos by Af-ton Bitton)





On the south of the highway, in places the foothills draw very close, especially at Clark's Hill, where the river chasm, filled with islands of cottonwoods is also close. This area is an aesthete's delight. The forested rolling hills force farmers to be creative — tilling certain areas and leaving others as nature planted them in the rocks, wild grasses, flowers, sage and small berry bushes. The varying colors and textures on this series of knolls and clearings make Route 26 worth traveling almost anytime.

In the winter, cross-country skiers and snowmobilers are attracted to these same stretches to play in the snow. On a blustery day, however, the veteran knows enough to avoid Antelope Flats and the Ririe plains. As the snow blows fiercely across the road, snow drifts form quickly and visibility becomes next to zero. The winter of 1972, for example, saw drifts nearly 20 feet high on these flats; thus many skiers returning to Idaho Falls were held up in Swan Valley for several days while rotary snow plows strove to cut through tall ice packed walls. Stores ran short on supplies so helicopters assisted.



As the car travels eastward from the flats, it presently arrives at the Granite area with its well-known pass which lowers the traveller into Conant Valley. Since the turn of the century, there have been four different routes over this pass — two with northern exposure and two, including the last, with southern.

The third road, which was shaded most of the time, curved around the rim of the hills on the southside of the ravine. Signs warned the driver to slow for the "S" curves and a sign at the top of the grade informed truck drivers especially to test their brakes and be prepared for the almost 90 degree turn on the east side of Granite Hill. Over the years, a number of trucks had tipped over and driven off the rim and tumbled onto Conant Valley many feet below. Fortunately, drivers often survived. Ironically, a P.I.E. truck flooded the vicinity with pies in one of these dreaded incidents.

After several decades of this third pass, which had to be sanded constantly during the winter, the state highway department cut a three lane highway right

through Granite Hill in 1985. Though this diminished the deer habitat somewhat, it did indeed eliminate most of the danger. Instead of a series of curves, the pass now features a long gentle arch starting south of the ravine. A car can take the pass downward at 55 miles per hour easily.

In another attempt to eliminate dangerous curves, the road now cuts straight through the hills at the east of Conant Valley and heads down an improved grade arching slowly onto the Snake River bridge. The straightening of the road across the flats and through Conant Valley and into Swan Valley has eliminated many hazards, shortened the distances and made the ride somewhat less interesting.

At the bridge the road turns alongside channels of the Snake River and then Rainey Creek for a mile or two. The confluences of streams and verdant river islands make this stretch a nature lover's Eden. Here the motorist should just laze along watching for sights and for fisher-



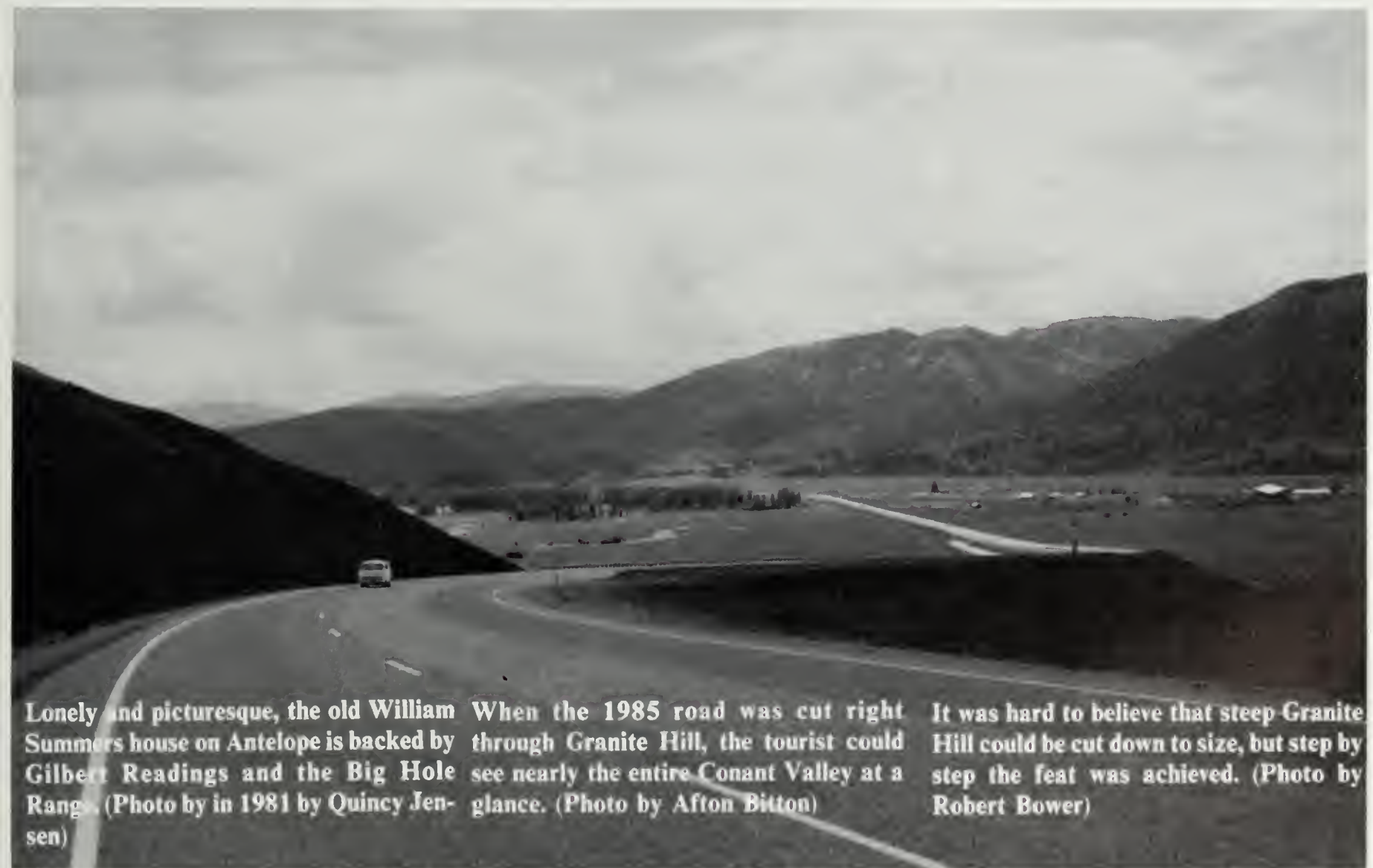


man who park on the side of the road. Once a moose calf browsing on rushes in Rainey Creek backed up traffic for a block while motorists took pictures or just stared. Several years ago Lola Sargent of Swan Valley reported that she saw two cougars resting on the roadside in this area as she was driving home at twilight. Such scenes are rare of course, but spotting deer and elk anywhere along Route 26 is quite common, especially in the winter. In 1988, a large herd of elk was sighted near Granite Pass. On the Palisade Creek road, elk and deer congregate in the winter and occasionally further up, just above Palisades Reservoir, moose lounge around the hillside home of Milo and Lula Ford to pull up the garden in the fall and browse on the bushes in the winter. Moose are less often seen by the motorist, but residents in Swan Valley area maintain that they, too, are visible. The reedy foliage along Rainey Creek attracts moose, who seem to find cattails and marsh grasses a delicacy. By no means, however, do moose confine themselves to the marshes.

In the early days, trappers' journals

described western Swan Valley as a marsh, more or less, and as one travels along, he notices many mosses and reeds in the creeks and a few individual "swamps". The scope from the highway also includes fields of grasses and hay stretching south about a mile to the South Fork, which seems always to be lined by willows, hawthorns and cottonwoods.

If the traveler's gaze is carried still farther south to across the river, he sees the white rock of the travertine mine jutting up out of the pines and the patchwork quilt effect of the Fall Creek farms. In the summer, this is a harmony of greens from alfalfa, new grain and evergreens. Farmers have a bent toward working up into the forests and following the lines of least resistance so that few dry farm plots are square. When the leaves turn red and yellow later on and the grain turns golden the patterns formed are a visual repast. One finds the same phenomena on Antelope Flats, Granite, north Pinecreek and eastern Swan Valley.



Lonely and picturesque, the old William Summers house on Antelope is backed by Gilbert Readings and the Big Hole Range. (Photo by in 1981 by Quincy Jensen)

When the 1985 road was cut right through Granite Hill, the tourist could see nearly the entire Conant Valley at a glance. (Photo by Afton Bitton)

It was hard to believe that steep Granite Hill could be cut down to size, but step by step the feat was achieved. (Photo by Robert Bower)

Route 26 runs along the northern rim of the valley and heads east for a mile or two then points southeast past the Swan Valley Commissary toward the Palisades Dam. Throughout this area of Swan Valley, the eye can be caught by the Big Hole range, better known as the Snake River Range. At "the store" which is the name that natives give to the little community of Swan Valley a person's eye roves northwestward to sagebrush covered foothills topped by the vast Pinecreek Bench or southwestward to Fall Creek Country (the Westbank as the residents there call it) or eastward to Mount Baldy, Atkinson Peak, Thompson Peak and Little Baldy, all denizens of Snake River Range. Grain fields amble up into the pines on the foothills of this area as well and cross along in front of Baldy and onto the Palisades Bench.

Some have commented that the valley reminds them of scenes in England, others say Australia. Tourists, both from other parts of the county and from far afield, often comment on the natural loveliness. A few years ago, a tourist from the eastern United States wrote a letter to the Post-Register calling Swan Valley the prettiest place they had seen and inquiring about land to buy there.

After passing the little community of Swan Valley (a term that also applies to the valley at large and several communities), Highway 26 continues southeastward past the Palisade Ward building, a defunct movie theater, the Chapel in the Valley, the Sunkiss Garage, the Sandy Mite store, county and state highway facilities and a number of residences, many of which have sprung up in the past decade. A new post office on the left announces that one is entering Irwin with its houses laid out more or less in block formation. A large grade school on the left and the Trading Post on the right impose themselves on one's view. This is only one of several businesses in Irwin to be mentioned later. On the rim of town off to the left the Palisades Lodge and the Wagon Wheel tempt the traveller to stop and eat.

The land at Irwin gives the onlooker a change of "menu" with several acres of desert. Here sagebrush and prickly pears (cacti) advertise their heritage and nu-



The fourth bridge to be built across the Snake River into Swan Valley has been in place since 1981. River channels converge here. (Photo by Quincy Jensen)

Not an uncommon sight on Highway 26 is a herd of cattle being driven home after a summer on the range. These belong to Theron Ashment of Irwin.



merous clumps of fragrant white baby's breath have attracted the eyes of many including California florists. Locals have been known to lease their wild fields to these groups. To avoid the desert, a number of residents have fenced off lawns and kept them green with sprinklers.

Outside the town of Irwin, hayfields appear and the roadside greens up. The Targhee Forest closes in on the highway on the left and the Caribou Forest, across the river, on the right. At the point where Palisade Creek rushes under the road into the river, the eye is captured by a collection of new summer homes intermingling with a few older cabins in Palisades Canyon and on the river bank. On the top of a knoll is the long standing Palisades Creek Inn with its daily home-cooked specials. Just above Joneses' restaurant a custom plastic shop reminds one that industry often prevails, while off to the left the shambles of Dutch's garage hints that, unlike the impressive natural beauty, industry does not always survive. However, still farther on, the traveler must stop the car in order to take in a tenth of what the Husky family has to offer in the way of services.



Husky's could be considered the beginning of the Palisades' community which is stretched out along the highway with trailer courts, cabins, a motel, a restaurant, video rentals, a garage, and a store and post office, among other things. A special housing settlement for Palisades Dam workers is accented by a warehouse and guest house for use by the Bureau of Reclamation. The Bureau is also in charge of the dam and the power house and a surrounding park where travelers may stop and enjoy numerous facilities for campers and fishermen.

Above the huge earth-filled dam is a look-out from where onlookers can see many interesting things including the fiercely gushing spillways. The dam forms a large often blue lake which is frequently bedecked with sailboats, power boats towing water skiers, an occasional rowboat or canoe and an even less occasional house boat or paddle boat. In the winter, ice fishermen often dot the frozen over reservoir.

Many travelers have learned to enjoy the sight of this wayside cabin since near the beginning of the century. It lies south of Highway 26 about a mile above the Swan Valley bridge. The weight of a dirt roof and the ravages of nature often have taken their toll. (Photos by Bitton)

The fall probably presents the grandest view of all. Scarlet mountain maples in September, later joined by groves of golden quaking aspens, overrun the mountains and foothills. These mingling with the evergreens form a collage worth stopping to see.

Numerous alpine cabins and summer homes, near the road or tucked back in the pines, attest that this is a valued recreation area.

On past the Indian Creek Sportsman's access a few miles, the motorist — who has been travelling down a forest bordered lane most of the way — comes to the Wyoming border, a line on the outskirts of Alpine which marks the end of eastern Bonneville County.





Stores and postoffices are the two most often visited institutions in Swan Valley and Irwin. In both towns the post office was inside the store for many decades. In 1988 Swan Valley post office with Danny Traugher as postmaster moved across the street into a new building. Danny is shown emerging from the building along with Jodi Beam who has just picked up her mail. Danny also helps his mother Grace manage the Swan Valley Commissary. Grace was postmaster for many years. She and her husband Harry have operated the store for many years. The Irwin Post Office got its new building two years ago and Pat Weeks is postmaster there. The homely atmosphere that Pat has achieved there has brought her many comments and commendations. She won the competition for Idaho's post master of the year, a rare feat. Previously the post office was housed in the Irwin Trading Post, which is owned by Eugene and Peggy Champion. (Photos by Afton Bitton)



Whether in summer, fall or winter there is always much of interest from Palisades to Alpine. First there's the impressive earth-filled dam itself. On the north end is the power plant with its roaring spillway. (Photo by Max Bitton) In the winter or in a year of drought like 1988, it is hard to discern that the once vast plain of Grand Valley is now a vast reservoir. When it is frozen over, ice fishermen make picturesque trails. The picture above shows a car parked on the old highway while the present route shows against the hill. Across the page the old road leading to Wyoming shows up plainly. (Photos by Afton Bitton) In the center photo by Quincy Jensen, the lake, the trees, the mountains and the sky make a sweeping statement. Nature outdoes herself in eastern Bonneville County with "purple mountain majesty," as the Palisades area attests.





Grand Valley Exactly That

What was here? In a drought year a newcomer exploring on the sandy floor of the receding Palisades Reservoir is sure to feel that he is uncovering the past. One such year was 1988 and another 1978. Those years adventurers were able to drive across the Indian Creek bridge on the Old Highway 26, since the man-made lake behind Palisades Dam had receded west almost to the original river bed. Across Indian Creek the lake bed became drier; hence, the paved road leading to the clearly visible Alpine showed up more and more. In fact, a few miles northwest of Alpine the asphalt was bare and the yellow line very apparent. Also apparent on the west side of the road where formations in cobblestones and in concrete to pique the curiosity.

In one foundation, a shoe scraper is still firmly embedded — a welcome sight to those who have been walking on the damp residue. Those familiar with the past here are haunted by the ghosts of Grand Valley and those who are not are wont to ask, “Who lived here?” Most wonder, how did they feel when they ceded their homes to progress?

Grand Valley, although it will never be the same, periodically rears its head to remind those around that it was once the mountain home of settlers. Older residents of Eastern Bonneville County can recall what a glorious valley it was in the first half of the century — alive with hays, grasses and grains, lying along the curling Snake River between the Targhee and Caribou Mountain ranges. For many years, horses, cattle, sheep and occasionally a few pigs grazed its verdant pastures. Deer, elk, moose and, rarely, bear also roamed its acres. Sagehens, grouse, ducks and geese supplied the table during seasons and coyotes, beaver, martens, muskrats and other furbearers tempted its trappers, the best known of whom was Carl Salisbury.

The old Highway 26 crossing Indian Creek and heading toward Alpine was fully apparent in 1988. Below that, Lloyd Hill, Grand Valley alumnus, and Wellington Bitton talk it over at the Old Tim-



ers' Reunion. (Photos by Afton Bitton). At the bottom is the picturesque second home of the Ruuds and, right of that, a family portrait of Emma, B. Max, Jack and Bert Ruud. (Photos courtesy of B.

Max Ruud). A dip at Tillie de Rome's Alpine Hot Springs cheered many a Sunday afternoon. (Photo courtesy of Ruth Pein Jacobson).

In the fall, the residents and their neighbors from nearby valleys paused to gaze in awe at the conflagration of scarlet maples and yellow aspens on the surrounding mountains — much as motorists and boatmen do now. The names of those people are too numerous to mention here, but in future annals valley historians will be revealing them. Land patent records contain names of those who “proved up on” and received deeds for homesteads. Some of those brave enough to endure deep snows, sub-zero weather, rustic conditions and remoteness from towns are presented here. (To readers now, families who came after the 1920’s would seem more familiar probably). Near Calamity Point in the north end of the valley and east of the river among the earliest were the following: James Tanner 1906, George Tolman, Fannie Prince and William Wheat 1908. Carl Salisbury purchased land on the hillside in 1931. On the west side of the river were James Prescott 1905, James Rus-

sell 1911, and Frederick Hatfield 1921. Farther south and east of the river were Edgar Cummings and Homer Davis 1905, Julius H. Hansen and Jacob Jones 1908; Jesse Wheat, Oliver Jacobson and John M. Hoenen 1911, Charles Fleming, William H. Carey and Merle K. Grore 1912. Across the river and edging the Caribou were John F. Smith 1903, Louisa Edwards and James Kellum 1905. Joseph Edwards joined them in 1914, Oscar S. Bush in 1922 and B. V. Edwards in 1931.

Still further south and east of the river were George Wilhite, Minnie La Rue and John Hanni 1903, Mary A. Henry 1904, John W. Henry 1911, Matilda De Rome 1912, George Marks 1920, and George De Pue Keyser 1926. On the west side of the river John F. Smith 1903 was joined by Hartvey J. Hansen in 1927.

Closer to Alpine and east of the river no one patented land before 1912. West of the river were Richard K. Colburn

1904 and James F. Jordan 1917. Between the two river forks were William H. Garrick 1905, Edward Vincent 1906, George Johnson 1908, Marion Robinson, 1915, Lavon Sanderson 1928 and Mary Hoffman 1938. Sanderson also patented land at the edge of the Caribou in southern Bonneville and in the extreme southeast were David King 1911 and Arlynn M. Ashment 1930.

Dorold and Ruth Pein Jacobson, who along with their families had owned land and lived in Grand Valley, supplied from memory familiar family names. Many of these experienced the dismay of evacuation: John Van Noy, Tom White, Dan Mechling, Sam Emory, and Lorin Nickerson, High and Hugh Hansen, Heman Hyde, Bill Hincks, Bill Adams, Arthur and Ern Edwards, Joe Park, Ralph Jones, Omer Miller, Dick Smith, Bert Ruud, Les Ruud, Jim Killian, Harry Pifer, Orval Walton, Lew and Earl Ford, Fritz Holbrook, Dwight Henry, Steve Reese, Wiley Marks and Worth Smith.



Now Bonneville residents and others may drive a hundred miles or more to boat on the reservoir or just to imbibe the beauty of the hills and mountains on both sides of the lake. Pioneers and their sons and daughters are upheld in their choice of a "grand" setting for living out lives which were much like the lives of other county pioneers before electricity and advanced machines. Breaking up sagebrush with only the help of horses or one's own muscle power, for instance, takes energy that most moderns don't dream of expending. The crops of barley, oats, hay, wheat and sometimes peas sprang up in unbelievable array in those earlier days, even though very few had irrigation rights, and so many depended on rain.

Grand Valley community life was also similar to that of adjacent valleys. There were three schools. In the east was Punkin Center, whose playground and building foundation could be seen on the reservoir floor in a drought year. Further west was Blowout, a school built on the Bert and Emma Ruud ranch. Near Calamity Point and the present dam was Fidelity School, usually called Whiskey Run because on Saturday nights when the schoolhouse was being used for a dance hall, the Edwards would bring the golden juices from their still across the river. They'd hawk their wares to all willing drinkers, of which there were a goodly few, according to sundry recollections. "Best darn whiskey in the whole county," one native claims. Blowout was thus christened because of the avalanche slash in the mountains behind it, but no one can recall growing any pumpkins at Punkin Center. Fidelity was a better name for the Whiskey Run building when members of the LDS church held services there on a Sunday, but one does wonder how many youngsters learned about the evils of liquor from stubbing their toes on the Saturday night remains.

Social life often depended on being invited to one another's homes, according to Bert Max Ruud, son of Bert and Emma, who owned one of the largest spreads in the valley. Their first house had a 30 x 40 foot ballroom on top where neighbors came from all over to dance and play cards. He remembers up to 50 people in attendance. The main musi-

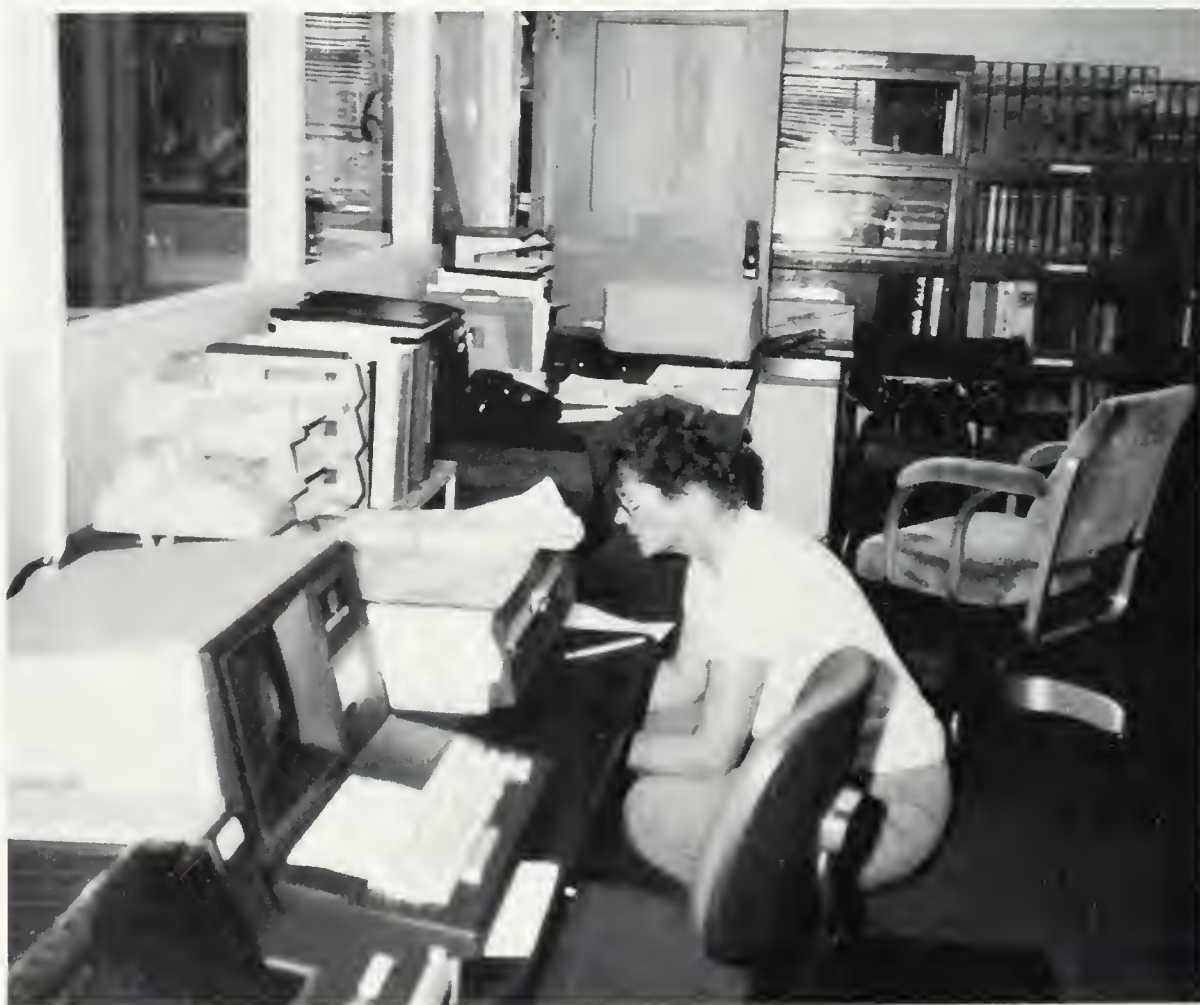
cians in the valley during his day were Hugh Hansen on the accordion and Milo Ford on the violin. Dances were also held at Punkin Center and often at Alpine, which was half in Idaho and half in Wyoming. Baseball, horseback riding, skiing and sleighriding were among the sports enjoyed.

Electricity came to Grand Valley by way of the REA in Afton, Wyoming, about 1939. With this and the increase in automobiles and the paving of Highway 26, Grand Valley residents, more and more joined forces with Swan Valley on the west and Alpine on the east. On Sundays, especially, people came from miles around to swim and soak in Tillie De Rome's Alpine Hot Springs just east of Indian Creek. This favorite recreation center was among the many things greatly missed when the government bought up Grand Valley in mid-century and turned it into the beautiful lake behind the world's largest earth-filled dam (at that time). (Swimming goes on in the reservoir but the water temperature leaves much to be desired.) Trees were uprooted and hauled away along with the many fences and buildings that were either burned or moved.

Many who were forced to sell out and move registered strong protests. Several

settled down river in Palisades, Irwin or Swan Valley. Others, heavy-hearted, opted to move farther away to where they wouldn't be reminded of their personal losses. A few who owned property on high ground nearby, like Milo and Lula Ford and Carl and Bea Salisbury, built homes overlooking the reservoir.

Data gathered from the Post-Register dated July 25, 1952, shows that the conversion of valley to reservoir began with hoopla and ceremony featuring many downstream waterusers at the handle end of a shovel: Herbert O. Peterson, George Hanson, Ernest Pickett, Milo Beckman, William Cederberg, Nelson Miller, Russell Everett, Alfred Peters, Don Stafford, Al Kramer, Clifford Scoresby, Leo Murdock, E. F. Hansen, John Sanborn, Charles Anderson, Fred Stanley, Joe Balmforth and N. V. Sharp. The groundbreaking ceremonies on Pioneer Day, 1952, featured also I. F. Mayor Ed Fanning, Senator Henry Dworshak and Governor Len B. Jordan wielding ceremonial shovels. These three also gave speeches along with Harold T. Nelson, regional director of the Bureau of Reclamation, Boise. W.A. Holden was master of ceremonies and David Dick, Idaho Falls, realtor and water leader, was program chairman.

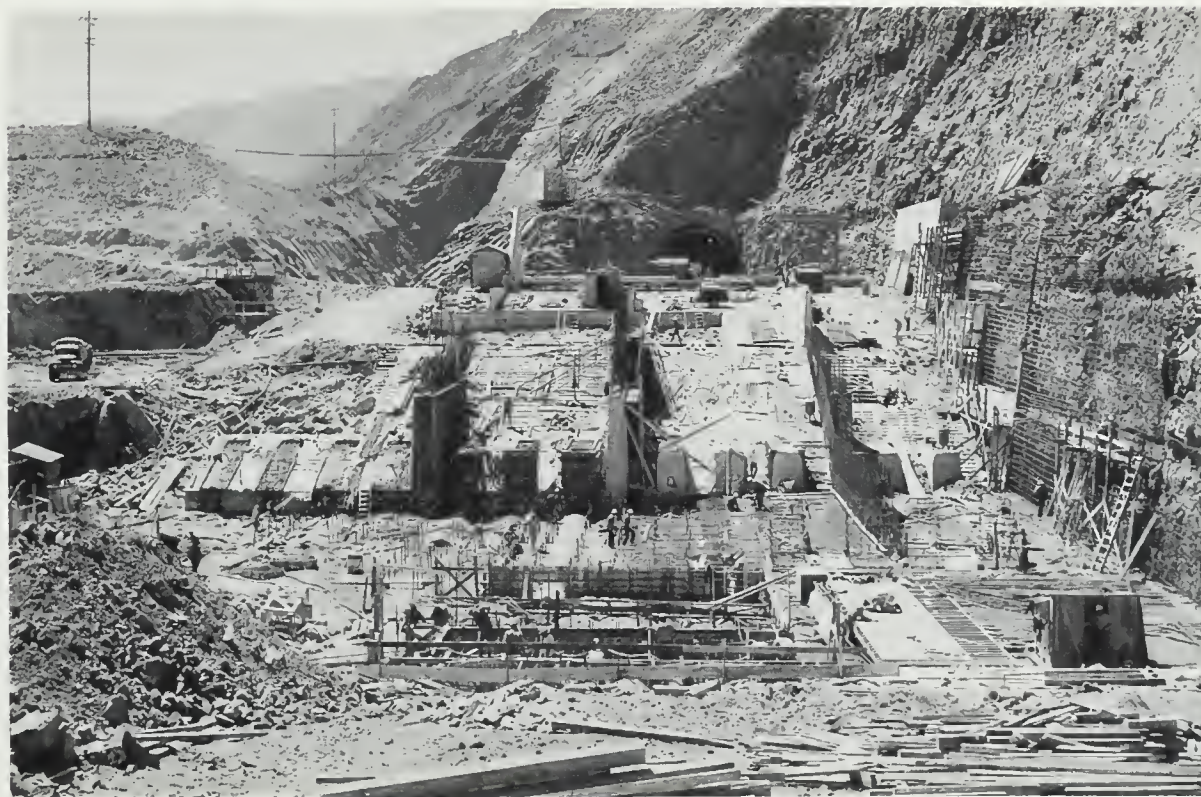


On February 17, 1957, the Post-Register printed this announcement: "Saturday Mrs. E. W. Fanning, widow of the late mayor of the city which championed the construction for the Palisades Dam . . . , will throw the switch that will start the flow of power to the Upper Snake River valley. And behind that dam which permits flow of needed electricity to the broad valley are more than 559,000 acre feet of previous storage water with room for almost one million more."

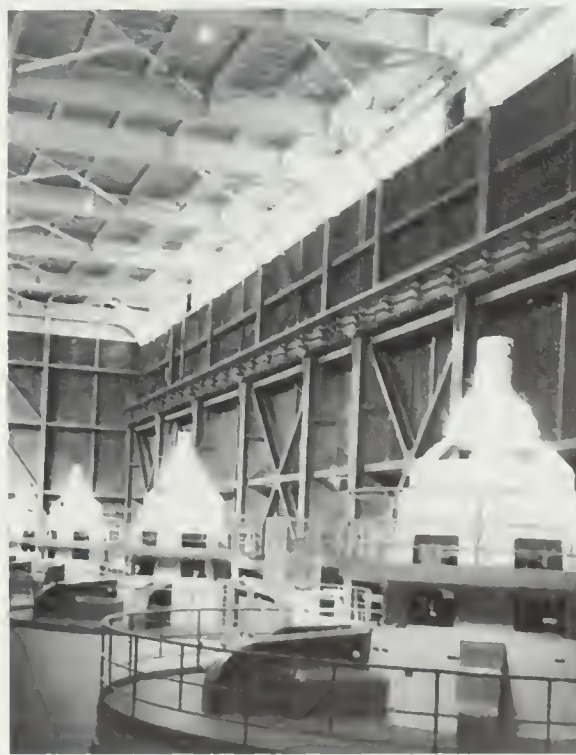
About 13,236,000 cubic yards of fill material from valley pits and nearby hillsides produced a dam 480 feet wide at the base, 2100 feet long, and 301 feet high. The width narrows to 40 feet at the crest, which contains a paved road across the dam. There are three 26-foot diameter tunnels in the downstream outlet and a possibility of eight gates. H. P. O'Donnell, project construction engineer, oversaw the job for the Bureau of Reclamation. Prime contractors were J.A. Jones, Charlotte, N.C.; and Charles H. Tompkins, Washington, D.C. In 1956, 375 men were on the payroll. Presently, the dam operation under Ken Rice employs 22 men and women and two part-time workers. When Idaho Falls pushed for the dam, promoters were hoping for the city to use most of the electricity thus produced. According to Dwight Yonts, operations foreman, however, this power is distributed throughout the Northwest grid. It ties into the Utah Power and Light system at Goshen. Bonneville Power markets it.

Not only does the 18 mile long reservoir, running from the dam to Alpine, provide power, irrigation and flood control but also it supplies considerable recreation. The lake, about a mile wide in places and 242 feet at its deepest, is the setting for 1000 summer homes, several boat docks and campgrounds. Fun seekers boat and ski on it and fish and swim in it. In the winter they cross-country ski, snowmobile and ice fish on its frozen expanse. The February ice-fishing contest draws people for miles around.

Many may still bemoan the loss of so grand a valley, but the often blue vast man-made lake is a positive addition to the county.



Looking down country from above the dam site in 1952, a photographer in a helicopter saw this, and in 1953, workers were preparing a structure to calm the turbulent waters in a "stilling basin". (Photos courtesy of Post-Register). The bottom picture shows the four electricity-producing generators in the plant today. On the previous page, Elizabeth Weeks, now working for the Bureau in Page, Az, was photographed in her office at Palisades while looking up some files. She is also the former mayor of Swan Valley. (Photos by Bitton).



A Hamlet Arises At Palisades

When work began on the dam in 1952, it gave rise to a blizzard of activities in Swan Valley communities. Of course, some of the 375 men involved in construction were locals but many were not. (The influx of new people has changed the population picture to this day since many stayed and took up new occupations after the dam was built.) Dozens of families had to be provided with housing, schooling, recreation and supplies. The dam project, therefore, became the impetus for adding rooms to the old Irwin school and to consolidating all valley schools into one.

Needless to say, grocery stores, garages, restaurants and other businesses already set up flourished. In addition, many new establishments sprang up. Foremost among these was a housing division, built on the east side of Highway 26 about a mile downstream from the dam. There were some 18 row houses on several streets and a government camp with trailer homes on the other side. Thirteen of these houses remain today to be used by dam personnel and other local renters. Also in the settlement are a warehouse and offices and a guest house for official visitors. Much of the ground for this area was purchased from Roy Tanner. The dam site itself was purchased from Paul and Josie Byrd and Fannie Wheat.

The first Palisades post office, in a little white building now gone, was operated by Vera Miskin in 1952-55. Paul L. Byrd was the next acting postmaster in a tin building downstream in 1958. Paul and his very active wife Josie moved off the point by the damsite and set up an IGA below the settlement on the south side of the highway. It soon became known as Byrd's Market. Mr. Byrd was postmaster in this store until 1959. The market has changed names and owners several times.

A Bureau of Reclamation photo reveals the Palisades townsite, the old road into Grand Valley, and (at top) the river curling its way through Grand Valley.

The first buyer was the Jess Weeks Corporation in 1972 with Jay, Aneita and other Weekses operating it. A neon sign flashed Jay's Market to the consumers. This title held through the time Bill and Zora Miller owned the store 1975-79. Millers sold out to Robert and Joy Quayle, who later called it Quayle's Dam Store. In 1988, Quayles sold to Tom and Joan Morgan, who still call it the Dam Store. Other postmasters since

Mrs. Miskin and Mr. Byrd have been Aneita Weeks, Zora Miller, Patricia Cain and Joy S. Quayle.

Just west of the store in a quonset hut a movie house was set up and run by the Maurice Kaufmanns. After the theater closed, Byrds converted the hut into storage. Still farther west, Bill and Zora Miller for several years ran various enterprises — the Nook and Cranny, a video and TV rental and a garage.



Now, however, Mr. Miller uses the garage to house his backhoe with which he does excavation work. The video rental business now belongs to the Dam Store and Mrs. Miller spends her work time running copies and teaching piano lessons.

Across the street from the Millers stands the large Snowball's Bar and Cafe, which had been in operation for several decades but it closed down this

year. Vernal and Donna Shurtleff owned and operated it for eighteen years. Vernal's organ music and earthy jokes there, and later down the road at the Palisades Lounge are a legend.

Other veteran business owners in the Palisades community are Theron and Blanche Brown, who still run Brown's Motel. Earlier Mr. Brown operated a garage; then they both ran a gift shop, a hamburger stand and a tomato raising

and selling project.

A fairly new business attracts the eye west of Brown's — O'Malley's RV Park. Trailer and RV Parks are a going concern in the area, as signs up and down the road attest. The next one downstream is Randy Husky's RV and Mobile Home Park. He also runs the store, cafe and gas station west of the Husky Gallery Trading Post, which belongs to his parents, Pete and Dorothy Husky. Pete Husky started a taxidermy shop in the gallery building about 22 years ago. The Husky's colorful layout could be said to be the last of Palisades proper, which features a number of newer houses and cabins along the route. Where Palisades ends and Irwin begins, however, is a moot question.

The present Palisades Community enjoys the style of Joy Quayle, postmaster. The Quayles used to own the Dam Store. (Photo by Bitton)



From Byrd's Store to the Dam Store (pun intended), this building (at left) has served thousands. Two of the other community businesses shown here — Snowball's Cafe and Dutch's Garage — have closed their doors but Brown's Motel persists. O'Malys's new layout is a part of a healthy industry — RV and trailer camps. The Palisades Dam staff had been greatly reduced since 1957; therefore, the businesses depend more on tourist trade and the patronage of valley residents who need their type of service. Next page — nearer to Palisades Canyon, businesses and cabins cheer up the traveler. Who lives in Palisades Canyon? At top a sign partially answers that question. Husky's Cafe and Joneses Palisades Creek Inn aim at the hungry. Husky's original offering was taxidermy by Pete Husky. (Photos by Bitton).



Creek and Canyon Are First Palisades

Palisades? Off to the east of two very tall peaks in the Snake River range — Baldy 9835 and Atkinson 9366 — lies the upper Palisades Lake, a hiker's reward. And just east of this gem are two of the other tall peaks — Palisades 9778 and Little Palisades 9707. To get to the trail, a horseback rider or hiker would go up Palisades Canyon to the end of a dirt road where sits an established campground. (In the winter this road and surrounding area is the home for many deer.) At the campground the lake seeker takes a narrow trail sometimes rocky and a bit treacherous. Elvin Hincks, at the foot of the canyon, maintains a horse string for those who don't want to hike the somewhat less than ten miles.

Midway or less is the Lower Lake, mainly a marsh and just above that a plateau where the Harry Ballards had built a lodge. Also in that area had been two forest cabins for the use of those who wanted to stay overnight before approaching the steeper climb to the lake. Now the lodge and one of the cabins are gone.

Palisades Lake supplies Palisades Creek, which runs down the canyon and tumbles into the South Fork a couple miles below the Palisades Dam its namesake. At the spot where the creek greets the river, Dave and Edith Jones built a cafe in 1949 on the south side of Route 26. Their son Bob and his wife Carol Weeks Jones took over the cafe, the Palisades Creek Inn, in 1967 and, except for a brief interim when Jim Crofts operated it, have dished out home cooked meals there ever since. For a while, just across the creek, Arden Christiansen, father of Jo Ann Cromwell ran the Dam Site Inn, a cafe and bar that became just a bar during the heyday of Palisades. The building still stands.

Abutting Joneses is a small log room serving as headquarters for Lyle Pirams' riverboat service. Several luxuriant summer homes, front the river nearby and several others fill the canyon.



Swan Valley Covers Broad Area

When a person says, "Swan Valley," he might be referring to a small city with odd boundaries and a low population as indicated by highway signs. The city of Swan Valley (under the mayorship of Jess Cromwell) stretches all the way from Spence Warner's in Conant Valley to the Sandy Mite in Irwin. Those who need liquor licenses also need to live in the city. Other persons much closer to the post office have opted not to live in the city. (The city of Irwin, directed by Mayor Joe R. Bellin, confines itself to a much narrower area.) Much more frequently "Swan Valley" is used in reference to the much vaster area lying between mountain ranges, a great part of which cannot be seen from the valley floor. It includes national forests, benches, canyons and creeks as well as the more visible Snake River. The social community of Swan Valley incorporates two Pine Creek benches, the Westbank and Fall Creek, Conant Valley, Palisades, Irwin, Swan Valley the city, and Swan Valley the valley floor. People from these areas come to know one another's names in time, since they associate at school, at church, or other events. They have come together to enjoy dances, rodeos, Fourth of July celebrations, ball games, Old Timer's reunions, senior citizens luncheons, American Legion meetings, Women's Club, Relief Society and others.

Before radio and television, there was much less entertainment in the home, so young people went the necessary miles on foot, on horse or by the 1930's in cars to find the current valley event. On Sunday afternoons, there was often a softball game going on in someone's backyard or cow pasture. Periodically, the younger men and/or women would form ball teams and challenge the other towns. A "run-my-sheepie-run" party accompanied by a delicious smelling wiener roast in the back woods was sure to attract a large group. So would a scavenger hunt or moonlight tobogganing.

New brides and "grooms" would

gladly have dispensed with the beloved tradition of the "shiveree", but their friends found the event highly essential. No marriage was off to an appropriate start without the creative form of taunting and hassling of the shivering couple. (Actually the word is "Chivaree" after the verb chivy meaning to pursue or harass.) Both the chivaree and the "chickaree" seem to have vanished from the rural scene as has the playing of truly irksome tricks on Halloween. If young folks nowadays were caught holding a chickaree, they'd be detained until bail was paid. Robbed from its tradition, the event would be considered merely chick-



en stealing. At this party which was announced sort of spur-of-the-moment, a festive flock of friends would meet at someone's house where the cooks would grease the pans. Sly chicken snatchers would depart for the coop of some unwary raiser and take enough young fryers to make a sumptuous dinner. Leona Jacobson Keith giggles as she recalls how one night Nick Butler was party to such an event.

While part of the group kept Nick diverted the other part went to his coop and copped enough fowl for the frying. Little did Nick realize that he was eating his own profits until he "counted his

chickens" after they were snatched.

As now, so then, the "coffee break" was important to the daily routine of many. In the first decades Uncle Ralph's and Aunt Rose's in Swan Valley or Mrs. Mize's in Irwin were favorite stops. Later, the Changnon's Lodge or the Palisades Lodge took the honors and still later there were many stops along Route 26. In the earliest decades, however, a "coffee break" often included an afternoon of pinochle, especially in the winter.

Dances were the one social event that brought people of all ages together for miles around. Sometimes these were

sponsored along with a bazaar by the Relief Society at the old meeting house in Irwin. At dances, at Church or at a school, the music was provided by a local duo of piano or accordion and violin. The most lasting and possibly the most talented of these fiddlers was Ed Daniels who often played at the hall but also played for school programs on the Westbank, where he was accompanied by Mrs. Leona Weeks on the piano. After these duos came a larger band in the late

Horsing around? Several valley people are seriously into training and riding excellent stock. Dorold and Ruth Jacobson mainly enjoy riding their Tennessee Walkers into the hills. H. L. Wiese, president of the Tri-State Fox Trotters Association breeds and sells and takes prizes with his troop. Mr. Wiese is pictured (page 218, lower right) with his grandson Brett on Tasha and Koskot's Pepsi-Cola. John Collins and Ralph Keller have built an arena at Collin's place in Irwin and leased some long-horns from Mexico. Local riders develop their roping skills there. Shown are Daryl Ricks, Roger Jacobson, Steve Weeks, and Mr. Collins. Also, Melvin Weeks is shown with his "trotter" Jewell and her colt. (Photos by Wiese and Bitton).



20's and early 30's known also in other areas. The combo consisted of Vernal Shurtleff, who played the piano usually; Keith Shurtleff, the coronet; Ivan Weeks, the violin; and Arvey Weeks, the saxophone. The Irwin hall would seem irreplaceable. Built around 1902, it was also used for town meetings, for school a while, and for LDS church services. Nevertheless, it was replaced for more secular dances by the public dance hall. The value of dancing to Swan Valley residents was evidenced by the fact that somewhere there was always a dance hall. Many remember an open-air dance floor behind Swan Valley Commissary. Probably the most romantic setting for a dance arena was Kopps' place by the tree-lined Pine Creek Bridge. Dancers still talk about the Blue Lantern with a special smile on their faces. Later and larger was the Palomar, soon renamed the Wagon Wheel, which in the 40's was also a roller skating rink. At these larger halls occasionally a large brass band was brought in to stir up the locals. Presently, every one of these halls has vanished along with the idea of large group dancing. At a special occasion like a pig barbecue a large crowd might have been found at Snowball's, the Palisades Lodge or the Covered Wagon and many might be locals. At Del Wilkin's Saddle Sore, however, the crowd was usually mostly dancers from elsewhere. As public events for bringing valley people together, dinners or picnics at the Palisades Ward or the Chapel in the Valley are more successful.

For a time the cinema was big in the valley but after a while both the movie house at Palisades and the theater in Swan Valley closed down. The young people, especially, found the experience an opportunity for conversing, eating candy and popcorn, and laughing and jostling. The Swan Valley theatre across from the Palisades Ward church was run by the Vern Lundquist family, mainly Betty Lundquist Muir and her husband Ross. The building still sits there.

Businesses in the valley have been few except for restaurants and bars and now river outfitters and RV parks. Usually there has not been more than one garage in operation at any one time. Ora Mize's blacksmith shop evolved into a garage





All of these Irwin Buildings though they date back to the first decade mainly, can still be looked at. (Top of page 220, clockwise). They are the 1904 home of Cecelia Jacobson and her large family, (the addition later built by the older boys is on the back); Ora Mize's blacksmith shop and garage; the impressive early built home of J. R. Daniels; the Irwin School with its addition, and the Wray's Cheese factory. (Photos by Bitton).



and service station with the advent of autos. He sold the first gas in the valley. The Swan Valley Motors across from the commissary was built by Mel Nelson and later sold to "Cash" Sharp. After Mr. Sharp, Howard Sargent, then Danny Traughber, kept carburetors tuned and spares aired for a great many years. Along with Bill Miller's garage at Palisades it is now closed. Fred Pickering's Sunkiss about a mile from Irwin on Highway 26, takes on the problems of farmers and motorists who stop. It is presently being operated by Randy Weeks.

Stores are among the oldest and most essential institutions in the valley. From the beginning, residents have relied upon them for the food, hardware and sundries that are needed between the supply runs to Idaho Falls and other towns. They have also served as communications centers. It is here that the local news is gathered and dispensed, oftentimes speedily and accurately. The basic grocery stores are Harry and Grace Traughber's Swan Valley Commissary, Peggy and Eugene Champion's Irwin Country Store and the previously described Dam Store at Palisades. Convenience items are bought at the Sandy Mite, started a few years ago by the Ken Bergs and now owned by Loren and Jerri Alexander, and at Randy Husky's store and cafe in Palisades. The very first store was also the very first public building in the entire valley. It was built by a Mr. Davis from Star Valley, according to Dora Daniels, 93 year old valley pioneer. At the site of the Mize poolhall this store was run by Henry Hill. Cliff and Eva Buckland owned the next store and ran it from about 1910 to about 1935. Sometime after Bucklands' departure the building fell down but the warehouse still stands. The former mayor of Irwin, Ed Backus and his wife Trudy live where the Buckland house was. The present Irwin store was set up by Bratton and Nettie Wade, largely assisted by their daughter Jane, who later married Jerome Fleming. Before the Champions, it was run by the Ernest L. Pettersons. Another store in Irwin, the Palisades Highway Market, the building of which still stands, was run by Lathan and Eva Jacobson for many years.

The first store in Swan Valley, a white two-story building, still stands but it is now brown and one story. When the Changnons — Harry, Edith, Meredith, and Jane — took over Uncle Ralph's and Aunt Rose's Place, they removed the top and made an apartment of the bottom. Locals can remember dancing in the upper story and shaking the whole building. Carrol Jones built the store for Claude Fleming, who was also postmaster there. George and Dorothy Grubb ran the store a while after him and then moved into a new store across the street after it was constructed by Byrd and Bob Colson. In 1929 R.D. and Nellie Traughber bought the store from Grubbs and after the older Traughbers' retirement, Harry and Grace Traughber took it over. The next owners are Danny and Kitty Traughber. In the early 50's, the Swan Valley Commissary was converted from an old country store with a "pot belly" stove in the middle to a mini-supermarket with baskets to push. No valley business has served more than 60 years as this one has and it is still going strong.

Older natives hold fond memories of Grover and Birdice Wray's Cheese factory in Irwin and Mrs. Mize's hotel and pool hall. While some children after Sunday school were waiting for their parents to get out of church services, they would wander into these places. Max Bitton remarks that he and his cousin Bill Campbell gained quite a taste for cheese curds this way. Mrs. Mize's burned down but the factory still stands. More recent businesses which now also are only memories are Rea Campbell's dress shop and a cafe sandwiched between Ken's Bar and the store. The J & J Outfitters building was once the Irwin Service started by Alma Weeks. Later it was run by Luke Mitchell, then Kay and Lula Thatcher. Ed Backus tried a repair shop there for a while. Business turnover was a phenomenon felt mainly because of the waning of customers after the Palisades Dam construction was over. It was a small boom town situation which left a number of abandoned buildings.

In normal years down through the decades, the number of businesses has been limited by the fact that many coun-

try people have done their own building and their own fixing. This self dependence has extended to their attitude toward medical help as well. In the first half of the century hardly anyone sought a doctor until the sufferer was truly down. Many pioneer mothers knew which herbs cured what and the annual spring purgative was meant to keep a person off the sick bed. At childbirths, midwifery was practiced by several valley women who gained a reputation for it. Occasionally a traveling doctor would

The past always holds a fascination, as these scenes uphold: (Top of page 223, clockwise) Dora Daniels, eldest valley resident sits in her home on the Westbank and recalls old treasures. Alma and Leona Weeks' first home (about 1919 on the Westbank). Lula Daniels Thatcher perches on the remains of her Westbank School. Representing older Swan Valley families, Esther Wiese has made a quilt. Sofa pillows contain names of newer ones. Also shown, the swinging bridge connecting the Westbank to its opposite, and two veteran upper Pine Creek teachers — Gladys Melton Winterfeld and Lucille Bitton Ruud, and Harry Kruse driving his touring car across the Pine Creek bridge in 1929. (Photos by Quincy Jensen, Joe Kruse and Afton Bitton).

visit rural areas or would come from Ririe or Idaho Falls when contacted by a courier because of some life-threatening disease like diphtheria. Sick and injured persons developed patience for pain and a hardy endurance. Many folks "from the old school" think moderns are too soft for their own good. Judged by pioneer standards, conditions and situations now are certainly different.

For one thing, with the onslaught of mechanical and electrical improvements, young and old alike have turned inward to some extent. Actual "helping hands" from neighbors are not as often



needed. If going someplace for sociability promises much exertion, people stay home and watch TV. Besides, local talent shows cannot hope to compete with the experts on TV. In the late 20's when radio came to the valley, families, still in the habit of getting together for entertainment, would gather at one another's houses on Saturday night to listen to a radio drama. (Amos 'n Andy, Major Bowes Amateur Hour, Fibber McGee and Molly were favorite week day shows.) The automobile, however, unlike the television, has encouraged getting together by making it simpler.



In the winter some residents of the Pine Creek and the westbank benches sought seasonal homes elsewhere so that snow would not make getting out so arduous. Those who stayed, however, were forced to limit their socializing to near neighbors. Still some individuals traveled with difficulty to the Swan Valley or Irwin post office maybe twice a week. The Russell Farnes family often forged through snowdrifts with horse and sleigh to go over ten miles one way to Irwin on Sundays to attend church. The J. C. Campbells on lower Pine Creek and the Harry Bitton family in west Swan Valley all went about seven miles each way to Irwin for church. On blizzardy or drifty days such trips were a struggle for the horses and the driver, but the passengers just snuggled down in the hay under a quilt and listened to the snorts, jingles and clops associated with a sleigh traveling about five miles an hour.

Because each family was responsible for its own transportation, it was more practical to have several small area schools in order to keep walking, skiing or horseback distance down to about four miles for most of them. On Pine Creek there was ultimately a school on each bench although in earlier days, children from the north bench depended on the lower Pine Creek school. This school just off the highway from Swan Valley to Victor still stands. Since this was difficult for the children (as was going from Pine Creek to Rainey Dell hard at another time for lower Pine Creek), a building was constructed which lasted until consolidation in the 50's. Fittingly, this building was used at Irwin as an extra classroom during the population boom. In 1902, valley children attended school at Robert Oakden's personally constructed home. (The Charles Van Dorns later lived there.) A valley yarn has it that Charles, Lizzie, Reuben and Maude Oakden were usually the latest to arrive even though they had to travel only from one part of the house to another. Mabel Traugher Winterfeld remembers that her brother Harry attended school in William and Annie Shurtleff's house. About a half mile northeast of Oakdens. Rainey Dell was built of native stone. Thereafter many students earned their diplomas there. Across the



river on the Westbank a school was erected by Frank Ballantyne under the auspices of Ed Daniels about a mile from his home for children who winter on the hill. This became the center for fine school programs and dancing usually including Mr. Daniel's delightful fiddling. One of the less known schools was used for only a short time. It stood in 1900 in the Palisades area where the Melvin Weeks family now lives.

At first Irwin children were schooled in the old meeting house but later a sturdy building was formed from native stone. (Houses and schools built from this limestone mostly from the Fall Creek quarry and the Van Dorn Canyon include Highams in Conant, Bittons and Goettsches in Swan Valley and the two

schools just mentioned. The Irwin building forms the base of the present District 92 school which had been enlarged to house extra children arising from the Palisades Dam influx. Children from all over the valley still attend.

Through hail and sleet, the mail must go through. From the Pony Express onward, mail has taken on a sacredness of its own. During the days before plowed highways, the mail was brought in daily during the worst of storms by a team of horses, a small covered sleigh with a stove inside, and a patient hardy mailman like Henry Hill. He would go to or toward Ririe where he met another carrier. They transferred incoming and outgoing mail and turned around to take the precious cargo to eagerly awaiting read-



Seen from State Highway 21, two picturesque old buildings catch the eye. One is the old Lower Pine Creek School built in 1916 and vacated about 1948. Across the page is the Elijah Linville home, oldest standing building on Pine Creek. The other school pictured is Rainey Dell as it appeared in about 1921. Top row — Willie Pieper, Leo Martin, Lela Potter, Lorena Bithell. Middle row — Wells Martin, Clifford Martin, Clara Traugher, Eva

Calderwood, Zelda McKay. Bottom row — Edith Goettsche, Avilda Bithell, Mocks Pieper, Nellie and Mabel Traugher, Fuller Martin, John Calderwood, Louis McKay. The LDS Church (middle picture) was dedicated in 1949 and its new chapel in 1978. The Chapel in the Valley, a Presbyterian sponsored community church, opened its doors in 1966.

ers. The mail sleigh also carried passengers who badly needed to get to or from "town". In the spring the mail truck was often laden with peeping baby chicks ordered through the mail.

Post offices and postal personnel also have their place in history. Some offices were operated out of stores and still others out of homes like the Wilhites at Indian Creek and Ralph and Lorene Jones at Blowout. At one time there was a post office in Conant Valley on the bluffs where Wendell and Afton Frisby now live. The operators of the Palisades post offices have already been mentioned as have most of the Swan Valley masters, synonymous with the storeowners. In 1989 Irwin was honored to "own" Idaho's Postmaster of the Year. At this year's convention held at Sandpoint June 19-23, Patricia Cain Weeks, who is appreciated for her homey touches in the new building, was cited for her outstanding service to the Idaho Branch of the National League of Postmasters. She has been a postmaster at Irwin since 1983. Irwin's first postmaster was Robert Oakden in 1897. In between these years these people have served: Sarah Butler Fawson, Mary E. Nielson, Charles A. Beam, William H. Johnston, Clifford P. Buckland, Carrie Rice, Nettie M. Wade, Winfrey K. Kimble, Eva A. Jacobson, Ernest L. Petterson, Eugene Champion, Margaret Lou (Peggy) Champion and Cynthia J. Winkler.

Burial places, past and present, are important to history especially since reading tombstones yields up good information. Several Swan Valley settlers have been discovered in backyards, in gravel pits and in fields. Reports say that some were buried in what is now Jay and Aneita Weeks' field. One man is buried in the yard of the late Richard Clark and the remains of one man had to be moved off Calamity Point when the dam came in, causing quite a stir. He apparently was murdered. A discernible bullet hole penetrated his foreskull. A little plot containing several Statens has been fenced off at the gravel pit and several Englisches are buried on top of the hill above Lloyd and Margaret Jacobsons' home. More formal, but certainly still wild, are a cemetery at the foot of Baldy

near the home of Ivan and Edith Weeks and another between Route 26 and the Old Irwin Road on the property of Melvin and Joan Weeks. There are possibly still other burial spots unknown to modern residents.

There is often a curiosity about fore-runners and questions asked that cannot be answered easily and accurately after the deaths of the first generation. Fortunately, if those pioneers homesteaded land, the county courthouse has a reliable record of those who were granted patents after filing for title. It is to be noted that patent dates are not the dates the landholders entered the valley, but they are close. Filing on the land, "proving up", and receiving the patent could take anywhere from three to ten years, officials say. Then, too, a study of patent records can reveal settlement trends. For instance, in Swan Valley it is evident that very few came to the valley before and immediately after the turn of the century; then around 1915 homesteading really picked up and filled greater Swan Valley with landholders. Also, it can be noticed that a person who filed early in one place filed later in another location. What is recorded here by the writer attempts to get at mainly the very early settlers. (Historians have plans to follow the course of later Swan Valley residents in a volume to be published two or three years hence.)

In an area on the Fall Creek side of the river dominated by its mineral springs and its falls, there is a rock quarry from which most of the native stone buildings were supplied and a well-known travertine mine. Papoose and Currant Creeks also run through the area. James R. Daniels 1919 and Ranger Eugene Briggs 1920 took up land near the Fall Creek. The first to homestead there, however, was John F. Jones 1908. Further east, several gained patents in the next decade: James R. Daniels and his son Edward, Joseph Jones and George Weeks in 1919. Earlier were Albert Peterson, Reuben Jones and Richard Marshall in 1918; Hans Peterson, John Marshall and Loren Fredrickson in 1917. A decade later a number took title: George C. Christensen 1928, Emory W. Jacobson 1927, Alma B. Weeks and Elmer Clark 1925, George Olsen 1921. The date for

Robert Fleming is illegible. As late as 1936, Emil J. Piper filed.

North of the Snake River and south of Rainey Creek in the west end of the valley, these pioneers gained patents: John McGibbon, Robert Oakden and Louisa Taylor in 1905, Nels Peterson in 1906, John E. Beckman in 1908, James H. Lowder 1910, Simon Lowder and William Lowder 1913, and Isaac P. Shore 1916.

Several people patented land in eastern Swan Valley and in Irwin near the turn of the century and shortly thereafter: before 1900 were Archie Fleming 1895; George Sowersby, William Shurtleff and Alice Bithell in 1899; Roscoe White 1900; Frank Beam, John Calderwood, Alfred J. Bernard, James Baker, Hyrum J. Weeks and Charles Burton in 1901; John W. and Valentine Corbitt, Herbert Beam, Charles Caldwell, Joseph W. Butler, Mary Butler and Mary Nielsen in 1902; Charles A. Beam, Julius Schnebly, John Barrus and Hannah Burton in 1903; Hugh C. Martin, Sr., John Castle and David Simpkin in 1904; Robert Oakden, Ira Corbitt, Samuel Weeks and James R. Daniels in 1905; Heber Bithell, Charles Dixon, Thomas C. Breeding, John H. Butler, William Johnston, John E. Staten, Anton Nelson and James Tanner in 1906; Alfred Blackburn and Thomas H. Weeks in 1908; Isaiah Fisher, John H. Marshall and Hugh Martin, Jr., and Sanford Parkinson in 1910; Janetta Caldwell in 1911; and Matilda E. and Nellie Beam in 1915.

On the opposite side of the river patents were taken by Alexander Rene and Samuel C. Weeks in 1903; by M.D. Yeamans and Robert P. Cornell in 1906; and Lorenzo Fredrickson in 1917. Later patents in the valley include these: Cecelia Jacobson in 1914; John Calderwood, Gustav Jacobson, William and Lewis McKay, Abram Weeks, E.V. Ford, Birchard H. Ford in 1917; Joseph Martin in

Wildflowers, grasses and sagebrush make the valley cemeteries distinctive with their naturalness. With the Pali-sades Bench and Yvonne Bryar's house in the background, the Irwin Cemetery holds tombstones of pioneers. The Swan Valley cemetery lies peacefully at the foot of Baldy. (Photos by Bitton).

1922; Lewis H. Daniels in 1926.

Jess Weeks, 90 years old before the end of 1989 and the oldest man in Swan Valley (Dora Daniels at 93 is the oldest person), gained a land patent as late as



1941.

Considering harsh winters, no electricity and remoteness from towns, one might wonder why these settlers would seek out Swan Valley in those days. For those who hate the restraints of society, the farther from civilization the better. There are those local sources who still maintain that there were at least one train robber and one escaped horse thief among the early valley settlers, and off the record they are willing to name names.

Certainly at least, there were some Daniel Boones and some hermits in the group. A few, including the Ross brothers, were seeking lush fields of grasses for their horses and cattle. The "sod busters" liked the quality of the soil and the planting and growing conditions, even though they had to fight a plentitude of cobblerocks and short growing seasons. Some are still amazed that such good stands of wheat, barley and oats are produced on the unirrigated farms of Pine Creek and Fall Creek. Grains, hay and seed potatoes take kindly to the mountain air and possibly the temperate days and chilly evenings. Numbers who came to settle the valley were Mormons, LDS people who exhibit paradoxical traits of seeking independence and at the same time believing in the establishment. Both traits are well served now in the valley. Possibly, then, as now, these people were big fans of nature, whose

presence is keenly felt in Swan Valley.

Surely, in the past few decades, the natural beauty of the place has brought significant numbers from other places, especially California, seeking to recreate there and in many cases to buy property, build, and live there. The value of the valley for recreation has brought specific kinds of businesses to the valley. As early as 1949, H.L. Wiese conceived of a ski operation. With the aid of Doward Kopp and Merle Jacobson, he chose Pine Basin, which after developed became a very popular place not only to the locals but to skiers throughout the county until the Targhee facility gave too strong competition. Danny Kelly promoted Pine Basin ski schools which prompted many busloads from Idaho Falls, Mr. Kelly, Mr. Jacobson and Ted Baker were also involved in the building of the Pine Basin Ski Lodge, which after the demise of the operation was purchased by Bonneville High School.

Also, in the Targhee Forest on Pine Creek has sprung up an LDS Girls' Camp. The forest atmosphere brings girls and boys from many places especially the city, to scout camps in the Caribou across the river from Irwin. Girl Scouts come to Camp Ta-Man-A-Wis and boys to Little Lemhi. In the Targhee, both boys and girls come to the Big Elk Creek Y.M.C.A. Camp, started by James F. Infelt and Orlando O. Price of Idaho Falls. The Mennonites sustain a camp up Sheep Creek Canyon, where there are also a number of summer homes.

Among those industries inspired by and catering to the recreation minded are six outfitters—five rivermen and Elvin Hincks, who for some 30 years has been guiding people to and from the Upper Palisades Lake on his horse string. Retired now, Glen and Fay Park ran horses up Palisades Canyon for 35 years starting at a dollar a day and working up to \$15 a day per horse. They outfitted for 25 years of that time. Also they started the Swan Valley Wagon Train. River outfitters include Lyle Piram Outfitting at Joneses, Jim and Julie Champion's J and J Outfitting at Irwin, John Hill's South Fork Expeditions at Swan Valley proper, and Spence Warner's South Fork Lodge in Conant Valley and Matt

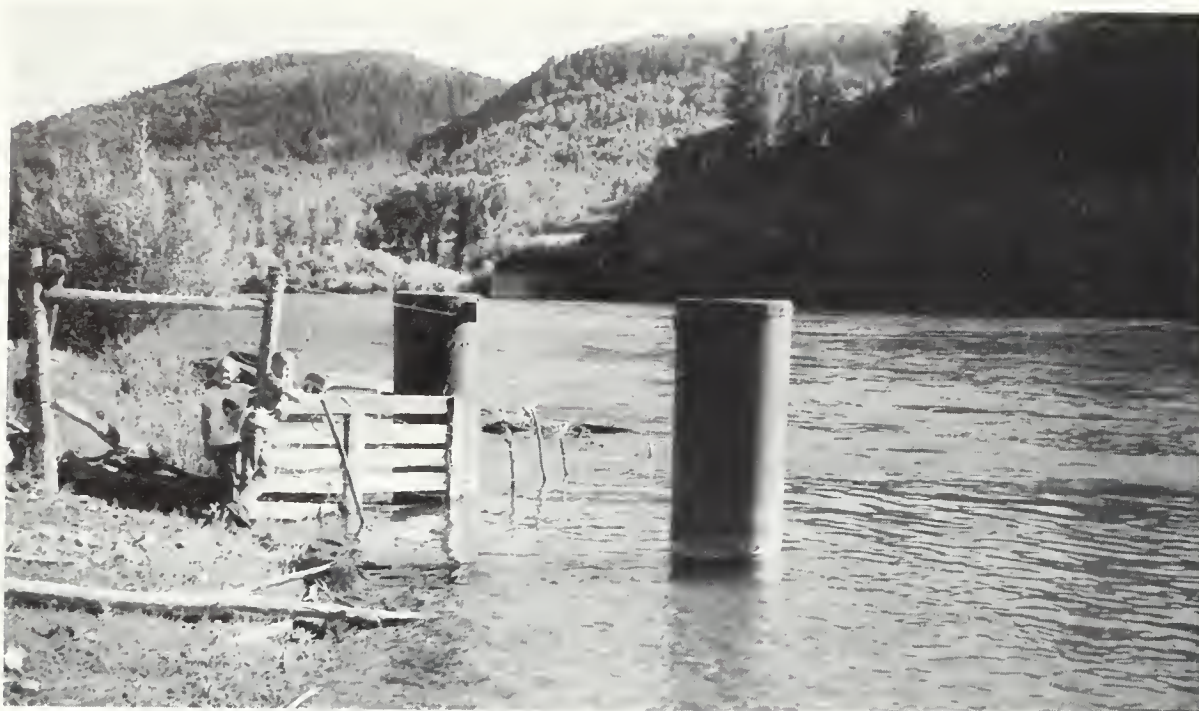
McCaben. For snacks, there are a number of cafes and eateries including, going southeast, the South Fork Lodge, Weeks' Angus, the Sandy Mite, the Palisades Club, Bob and Bonnie Jackson's Covered Wagon, Joneses Palisade Creek Inn and Rancy Husky's Cafe and Store. Motels are limited mainly to the Palisades Club and Brown's but RV parks are plentiful. Starting in Conant Valley there are the South Fork Lodge's RV unit, the Palisades Lodge park, the Ricks' trailer court (presently closed), Randy Husky's park and Charles O'Malley's park at Palisades.

Two bed and breakfast places have sprung up in recent times. One is situated in the Clayton-owned John Castle house on Cottonwood Road. The other is McBride's Bed and Breakfast in Irwin proper. It is owned and operated by Craig and Deanna McBride.

Writing about natural Swan Valley is like writing brochures for the Chamber of Commerce because a strictly objective description is not possible. The truth about the place must get at its aesthetic nature and, incidentally, business owners are forming a chamber of commerce there for the first time. Palisades had a chamber in years past, however. Guiding the Chamber through its first year of projects and of meetings Thursday nights at the American Legion Hall is a challenge for the officers—Spence Warner, president; Steve Bills, owner of the Palisades Lodge, vice-president; and Julie Champion, secretary. Promoting their businesses is involved with promoting Swan Valley. The nature of the valley should make their task easier.

A temperate summer climate, outstanding scenery including deep blue mountains, cloud-etched blue skies, dozens of creeks, and canyons, the South Fork, many forest trails and the Palisades Reservoir satisfy the residents and tempt the tourists and vacationers to try painting, writing, fishing, hunting, boating, swimming, hiking, cycling, motor-ing, water skiing, and just plain loafing. In the winter, conditions for skiing and snowmobiling are highly satisfactory. Greater Swan Valley is one of the fastest growing places in the eastern county, and it is a place where many county taxpayers can gather to forget their taxes.





Floating on barrels, the first river bridge in Swan Valley managed to support the necessary loads. Daniel and Katrina Lundquist, children of Mr. and Mrs. Mark Lundquist, are proud to live on its shores. The Farmer's Ferry, from Dry Canyon to Harrington Beach, worked downriver. The second bridge, which washed out in the Gros Ventre flood in 1927, presided upstream just a short distance from the first one. The third and fourth were east about a block. Also shown on this page are Conant Valley scenes: Frisbys' A-frame on the bluff, Joseph L. Highams' stone house now Osterkamps' vacation retreat. A snap taken about 70 years ago shows the Highams on the porch with Sunday guests: Joe, his wife Katie, his sister Annie May and his toddler sister-in-law Edith Goettsche (Weeks). A fire demolished the Snake River Ranger Station house in 1988, but all the other buildings and a chimney survive. County residents daily use the Conant Valley Sportsman's Access for boating spring through fall. (Modern photos by Bitton).



Conant, Granite Border Swan Valley

Conant Valley is closely related to Swan Valley, especially at present. The South Fork Lodge, near the Sportsmen's access, for instance, has been incorporated into the city of Swan Valley for licensing purposes. Wendell and Afton Frisby who live in an attractive A-frame on a bluff, attend several Swan Valley functions and he serves as bishop of the Palisades Ward. The Pancheris, who owned the Conant Valley Ranch right after M.E. Toliver, also attended Swan Valley church functions.

The present ranch owner, Gus Osterkamp, lives in Orange, Calif, and visits here occasionally. Then he stays in the renovated rock house built by Joseph Higham. Ranch Managers, Dale and Cindy Drollinger, are sometimes involved with school and church events. Others who also live on the ranch to keep operations going, Mitch and Cindy Carter, have children soon to be old enough to enroll at Irwin Elementary School.

The other buildings in Conant Valley belong to the Snake River Ranger station, which was set up early in the 1900's to house the Caribou Forest rangers. Children of these rangers have attended school at Rainey Dell and Irwin in former years. In 1988, the house at the station burned down but work buildings still stand. Most of the Caribou Forest Business is now handled by Targhee Forest personnel, who have an extensive work station in the middle of Swan Valley.

Around the turn of the century, a number of Highams—Joe, Richard and Charles—were investigating Conant Valley. Joseph W. Higham took title to 160 acres in 1897 and his wife Margaret (who was only 41 when he later died) took title to 40 acres in 1903. Their children were Annie Erickson Wold and Joe L. Higham. Joe and his wife Katie Goettsche Higham lived for a while in Conant Valley then moved to Swan Valley and lived near the Rainey Creek Canyon. Charles R. Higham in 1902 and Mary Higham in 1903 patented 400 acres between them. Tucked in among the Highams was Charles A. Spackman.



James Dunn took up 160 acres in 1895 and William Hyde 160 in 1898. Near the ranger station George Wederkind homesteaded 160 acres, patented in 1912.

All of these areas, some with water rights from Pritchard and some from Gardener Creeks, ultimately were combined into one ranch. Ranger Eugene Briggs in his memoirs said that Mr. Toliver had title to 1400 acres. When he sold his ranch about two decades ago to Walter Pancheri, he was reported to have asked a million dollars for the layout and Mr. Osterkamp supposedly exceeded that amount. (Information sources are good, but purchase prices are personal).

According to official abstracts, Martin and Cecelia Welch bought from Joseph L. Higham and his wife and mother. When they couldn't make payments, they turned the mortgage over to Mr. Toliver. Charles and Phebe Spackman deeded their 160 acres to Reese T. and Rosella Morgan for \$5000, who in turn deeded over to J.L. Higham in 1918. Basically, the skeletal story of Conant Valley land is now told.

On Granite Hill directly north of Conant Valley, the homesteading report is comparatively simple: John and Gertie Clark patented 240 acres between them in 1915. Stillman Campbell took on 80 acres in 1916. Others gaining Granite ground through patents were Mary A. Tibbetts 1920, Ernest Gallup and Daniel B. Harrington 1930.

More recent residents, according to Alma McMurtrey, include the families of Gerald Gallup, George Bitters, Parley Byington, Garfield Smith, Jay McMurtrey, Maldon Later, Gerald Montgomery, John Clark, Gib Reading, Alphonzo Reading and Jeff Woodard.

Granite Hill has been host to four passes. As top scene shows, Granite Canyon has contained the first, third and fourth road sites. The first road followed the bottom of the canyon mostly. At the top, it took almost the same route as the third road (left side). The (new) fourth road has southern exposure. From Conant, one can see hints of the second road on the steep hill (middle picture) (Photos by Bit-ton).



Antelope Dwellers Wax and Wane

"At one time there was a different family on every forty acres, I have heard, but that would be long before my time." This remark from Thelma McMurtrey, a former antelope resident and president of the Jefferson County Historical Society, shows that the population has ebbed considerably.

Now Antelope has a number of deserted houses and a number of houses that are lived in occasionally. Some dwell there during planting and harvesting, and winter elsewhere. Then, too, there are several who have built modern homes and reside in them year round. The church, the school, and the store, which stood not far from the home of Mary Sweeney McMurtrey, a longtime and well-loved school teacher of the area, and her husband the late Calvin McMurtrey, are all destroyed or moved away.

The original Antelope settlement was

about 90% Mormon, according to Thelma McMurtrey, daughter of William H. and Elsie Clifford Summers. That is why the social life revolved around the church. The non-Mormons, too, enjoyed the dances held in the church hall two or three times a month. For instance, Bob Scott, a bachelor, taught many of the girls to dance. Mrs. McMurtrey said. Families would bring children and food, dance awhile, eat awhile and repeat the process. The babies were put to sleep on the benches surrounding the hall.

Music was provided, in Mrs. McMurtrey's girlhood, by her father on guitar and harmonica, her mother on piano and Bill Ricks on the fiddle. The building had only one room with a stage in one end. For Sunday school it was partitioned by curtains into classrooms.

Entertainment was not lacking on the large, lonely-looking plains. There were programs at the school which drew both parents and children. Other pastimes included walking by the river, riding horses, eating and visiting in neighbor's homes, singing with the family, and wading and swimming in the ditches.

For games, children played ante-eye-over (variant spelling), hop scotch, tag, jacks, "mumbly peg," and ball, among others. The Summers children (at least) spent hours throwing clay at the house and at each other.

The school house had two rooms; however, as the population diminished only one was used for the approximately 20 students who made up all eight grades. Mrs. McMurtrey maintains that this situation tended toward a high quality education because she received more individual attention there than in Ririe. Also, there was an advantage to being able to listen to the lessons of other grades. Most of the time, she attended school at Ririe from November to April and at Antelope in late spring and early fall. Many Antelope children followed this schedule. To get there, most children rode horses — sometimes two or three per horse. They "parked" their steeds in the barn behind the teacherage, and fed them hay and oats. Some parents brought their youngsters to school in a wagon.

During the depression, the Summers



children and others, too, stayed on Antelope the year round. Mrs. McMurtrey describes it thus: "We took enough flour, germade, baking powder and honey to last the winter. Dad had cows, pigs and chickens so we didn't go to town the full winter. It's hard to feed a whole bunch of kids and not go to town, but my parents were good old pioneer stock and they managed to do it."

Pioneer conditions, which were experienced throughout rural Bonneville County and elsewhere in the rest from earliest times into the 30's, include the following particularly in the winter: owning very few items of clothing and only one pair of shoes (sometimes fewer), reading by coal oil or gasoline lights, keeping too hot on one side of the body and too cold on the other, frequently fueling the stove in an attempt to warm a frame or log house not insulated with a pot bellied stove and/or a cookstove, eating what could be canned from the garden or killed from the farmyard. Wild game and fish could be used to augment the menu, but they could not be counted on. Under these circumstances, crop failure almost spelled starvation for human and animal alike. The number of animals a family could afford to own and maintain affected how much and what they ate. The wild animal "society" on Antelope featured coyotes. Moose, deer and elk could be found in the hills by persistent hunting. Ironically, the namesake animal, the antelope, disappeared from the flats during the third decade. Earlier, though, they did indeed exist. Joe Fisher told Lynn Brown that when he first came there (1918), there were numerous antelope leaping over the tufts of tall bunch grass and sagebrush.

Gardens had to be watered from Pine Creek. Antelope Creek (or whatever stream was nearby), which flowed over from the southern hills and made their way to the river. In late summer these creeks could turn to trickles or to dust. Drinking water was hauled in large tanks and dumped into the family cistern. This meant that families learned conservation well. For baths, the old tin washtub, filled on a Saturday night and emptied and refilled after three or four persons had used the same water, was a practical tradition.

There were no telephones until 1936 or so and late in the 20's radios were a rare luxury. Electricity sauntered in at last in the 1950's. The hardest thing these early families endured, however,

were the low winter temperatures. In the eastern valleys even today, it is not unusual for thermometers to register lower than 50 degrees below 0 Fahrenheit two or three times a year. A week of 20 to 25 below is in usual expectations. When the Summers stayed on the flats all winter, the family of 12 children (sometimes) and parents all moved into one room of their three room house) with a cook stove in one end and a "pot belly" in the other in order to keep warm enough.

In the earliest days hardships were

A Fourth of July celebration about 1918 on Antelope shows the church and school in close alliance (top photo). In a photo by Thomas Clifford of Holman Clifford's store, one can see the traditional front. About 50 years ago the store was a friend on the old Roosevelt Highway. Across the page, Harry Kruse is driving the first tractor to be used on the Pine Creek bench down that same highway. (Photo courtesy Joe Kruse). Thelma McMurtrey is holding onto the Antelope Cemetery fence. (Photos from her album).





even greater. In the 1890's farmers cut through tall grass and sagebrush with a disc plow and eight horses. Joe Fisher (1918) grubbed out a whole field by hand. Who some of these early Antelope settlers were has been ascertained from the land patent records as follows: Matilda Caroline Myler and James Adrian Coles 1872, John Parley Byington 1880, William Gallup 1882, George Henry Radford II and Lydia Strong 1885, James Leon Gallup 1886, Martha Elizabeth Spracher and Lena Lavon Coles 1888, Maggie Smith Byington 1889, John Clark and Hilda K. Clark 1893, Eartha Clarke Keele Campbell and Ellis Keele 1895, Herbert Earl Campbell and Lane and Annie Clark 1896, Jesse G. Clark 1897, Ada Campbell Clark 1900, and Daniel Tyler 1901. From 1912 to 1931 many dozens of families took up homesteads on the Antelope Flats, as the patent records reveal.

Since electricity came in and well water can be tapped at 500 feet on the average, the entire social scene has changed. Several farmers have bought up large tracts of land. They have encouraged outstanding yields of wheat, barley, seed potatoes (occasionally peas) by comprehensive sprinkler systems, many on wheels, and the latest in planting techniques. At one time Jim Hayes tilled more than 3,000 acres, according to Lynn Brown. His own parents, Frank L. and Mary Brown, farmed up to 11,000 acres until they divided it among five sons — Lynn, Lawrence, Harold, Karl and Merle. Lynn also bought the 430 acre farm of Joe Fisher on Fisher Bottoms, on the banks of the South Fork near the Big Hole Mountains at Burns Creek and Black's Canyon.



Across the river from Fishers were the Table Rock people and pioneers of the sagebrush hills east of Heise: Herbert C. Anderson 1920, Nels Johnson 1919, Walter C. Mollenthil 1924. Opposite Fishers was Charles Wheaton 1917, who gave up in 1924, at which time Norma House Buckland took it over, according to Elaine Buckland Fullmer. Her father Carl Buckland patented land west of Wheaton's in 1923. Mrs. Fullmer's summer home in that area provides her with a feeling of historical connection to that unusual area. Her father was a successful trapper there and was a friend to another trapper, Henry Sipple, who reportedly came there from the Montana Mines and who shied away from civilization. A section of the river called Henry's Bathtub is named after him.

Fisher Bottoms, property of Mr. Brown, was being considered for a land swap between the Department of the Interior and the Targhee Skiing resort. This summer, however, plans changed and the Browns sold the Fisher land to the Don Segal family from Sun Valley. They are reported to be restoring the cabin. When the Fisher land passes into other management, there are many who hope the house of Joe and Temperance Fisher and behind it the cabin of their son Vardis will be preserved as an historic site. Fisher Bottoms, then is the childhood home of Idaho's foremost author, discounting Ezra Pound from Hailey. Fisher still has relatives in the county including Margaret Fisher Jacobson and her brother Joe Fisher in Swan Valley.

Unlike Pound, Fisher often lived in Idaho since his birth at Annis on March 31, 1895. He died July 9, 1968, in Hagerman where he lived with his second wife Opal Holmes Fisher. His first wife was the former Leona McMurtrey. Fisher is described in Chamber's Biographical Dictionary: "An American writer whose novels, set in the Rocky Mountains, have been praised for their psychological realism and historical accuracy."

Lynn Brown stands in front of Vardis Fisher's cabin at Fisher Bottoms. Below is Joe Fisher's house where Vardis spent his childhood. Next page features crops near Black's Canyon and Roosevelt Highway paralleling the 1970 Route 26.

Dorys C. Grover in *A Solitary Voice* (1973) says that to the end Fisher was "faithful to his art; he wrote of the beginnings of man, of his evolution, his religious fantasies, his failures and triumphs."

When the Bonneville County author published *Toilers of the Hills* in 1929, many neighbors and relatives thought they recognized their own and neighbors' identities in certain characters and many were not complimented. And when he received the Harpers' Prize Novel award for *Children of God* in 1939, many Mormons were offended.

Yet, literary critics have found the works to be strong in the defense of the positive traits of the persevering Mormons. A complete listing of Fisher's writing is best left to the card catalogue file but it is significant that of his 22 novels, several have received national acclaim. Two of these are *The Mothers*, about the Donner party, and *Mountain Man*, which was the basis for the movie *Jeremiah Johnson*. This New York professor (Fisher) also wrote critical essays and a group of sonnets for publication in periodicals. The sonnets were titled *Antelope People*. One of these describes his father



whose name is thinly disguised. One can see the poet's regard for the character of one of the Antelope pioneers:

Joe Hunter

Time built a pioneer and set him down
Upon the grayest waste of Idaho
He clubbed the desert and he made it grow
In broad and undulating fields of brown
He laid his might upon it, stripped its frown
Of drought and thistles, till by sweat and glow

He left the aged and barren hills aglow
With color — and its flame was his renown.
Few loved him, many feared, and some would smirk
Derisively, and call his mind untaught;
Of foul speech, and unclean from head to feet,
Who poured his great dream into golden wheat
Until his gnarled and calloused hands had wrought
A deep and quiet holiness of work.



Working with the Federal Writers project of the Works Progress Administration, in 1938, Fisher edited *The Idaho Encyclopedia*, a useful volume. The year before that (1937) he edited *Idaho, a Guide in Word and Pictures* and in 1939, *Idaho Lore*. All of these were printed by Caxton's in Caldwell. His pride in his homeland and his need to eat during the depression possibly prompted these practical works of non-fiction. There is strong evidence that this well known author often thought of Antelope when he was far from home and that he had the urge to return there as often as possible.

In their writing for local periodicals, Thelma Summers McMurtrey and her brother Orville (1918 - 1983) also have indicated a strong interest in Antelope Country. Both, for instance, have eerie accounts of mysterious Antelope apparitions in the "Myth and Folklore" issue of *Snake River Echoes* (Vol. 10, No. 4). A poem from the late Mr. Summers, who was compiling local history before his death, refers to the country and people and captures the flavor of rural verse. The Rockies is a mighty range of mountains.

Here and there
Nestled beneath those rugged peaks
That tower in the air. There lie some fertile valleys
Where the soil is rich and deep
No great expanses but where strong folk
Once settled, to earn their keep. They had very little money
But a lot of faith and hope.
Some settled in the little valley
Known as Antelope.

Mr. Summers' sister is no less enthusiastic as she sums up her pioneer sentiments: "It was a good life. When I look back at my life, I don't think of the pretty clothes I had, of the nice gifts I received, or of the fancy friends I have. I think of Antelope."

(Photos by Afton Bitton)

Ririe, Poplar Boon to Many

Less than a half dozen businesses lie on the Bonneville side of Ririe and Poplar. Nevertheless, this area has been a significant section of the county. For instance, people all over come to the Ririe Reservoir to boat, fish and water ski. The dam, originally conceived mainly to control the spring flooding of Willow and Sand Creeks and thereby also to provide about 80,000 acre-feet for irrigation, has evolved into a popular recreation area since its preliminary construction started in 1967. Among other things, campers enjoy the sight and scent of the sage and cedars as they "layout stakes" near the brink of the Willow Creek Chasm or browse around at the visitors' center. In a like manner nearby Ririe and Poplar have acted as "oases" for the nomads of such areas as Antelope and Swan Valley, especially in earlier years.

Presently, a number of Antelope farmers live in the Ririe vicinity from where they drive out to till their land. In earlier times, some of the outlying settlers came to Ririe to endure the winter closer to neighbors. Both Antelope and Swan Valley folks sought Ririe for the frigid months. In fact, one Irwin family still does this, a Ririe resident claims.

Earlier Antelope children went to Ririe for high school and now a number attended elementary school there as well. Since the late thirties, dozens of Swan Valley students have boarded buses to Ririe High School. (Others have attended high school in Districts 91 and 93, to name other Bonneville County hosts.) There are no high schools in Antelope or Swan Valley.

Both Ririe and Poplar, especially the older Poplar lying on the old Highway 26 from Idaho Falls to points east, provided way-stations for travelers on their way to the county seat and a larger "metropolis". During the days of true "horsepower", the excursion usually took three days: one to Poplar (or Ririe later), another to Idaho Falls and back to the inn, and the third back to the valley. The onset of automobiles and the improvement of roads put an end to this close relationship of travelers and hosts. On an

older, longer route in a Model T, for instance, a carload could drive to Idaho Falls, do business and get back to Swan Valley at twilight by hustling. (In the winter up into the 30's, sleigh travel was still necessary because of the drifts). Oft-times travelers would pause in Poplar at the Dave Anthonys' Store, which has been converted into a home now. Today the 45 mile trip takes an hour each way at the utmost. Several residents com-

mute daily from the valley, some even as far as the Arco desert for INEL jobs. The building of a straighter road in the early 70's threw Ririe and Poplar off the main route, but still there is some commerce between communities. Ririe gas and oil trucks, for instance, still service Swan Valley farmers and residents sometimes make a quick trip to Ririe for a piece of hardware or an available machine part.





Poplar was quite a growing center for at least two decades before Ririe came in to take the honors. Swan Valley area residents, especially farmers, needed way-stations in their 50-mile trek to Idaho Falls. Two of these stop overs were Stauffer's, a rooming house (upper left) and Christensens (lower left). Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Christensen around 1907 built the house, a tin-covered livery stable (side view at left), a blacksmith shop, to which there was attached a saloon, and a two room "comfort station". In 1936 William and Elsie Summers and their 10 children bought the "old Christensen place." Today, the former Thelma Summers and her husband Alma McMurtrey live there. Above appears the lower Poplar school (Dist. 21, 1910). The building for the upper Poplar school is part of a grade school in Ririe. In 1936 Everett and Frog Prince posed by the boarded up Presbyterian Church (1907), which had been used as a granary since 1914, when the congregation went to Butler's Island. Mr. Sellers, an unordained minister, was one of the spearheads in getting it built. Builders included Andrew Jensen, James B. Smith, E. L. Miller, Robert Miller and George Peterson. (Photos courtesy of Thelma McMurtrey).

Ririe, though mainly in Jefferson County, has been an industrial friend to farmers throughout eastern Bonneville County. Of course, most of the farms extending south from Ririe are owned by Ririe residents (many living in Bonneville County), who oftentimes have sold their crops to Ririe merchants, stored them in Ririe elevators or shipped them on Ririe trains. In fact, Ririe came into existence largely because of the railroad, according to Thelma McMurtrey, a first rate history buff. Poplar was on the map a long time before the railroad loop in 1914 inspired Ririe's creation. The loop came to Ririe because of the extensive production of wheat and other crops. At one time, sugar beets were a major crop, but now potatoes and hay join grain to dominate the crop scene. Peas have also been grown in the area. For years, Swan Valley area farmers trucked (or wagoned) their grain to Ririe where it was stored until it could be sold to distant markets, mainly in the Midwest.



Several businesses stand on the Bonneville County side of Ririe, including a number first owned by Milo and Anna Rowan (now deceased) and their son Marlen. The Rowans started the R apart-

ments and the Amoco Oil station and cafe (now Jones' hardware). Further west is a small oil outlet owned by Rowan and Anthony; and Gateway Service Station and Store owned by Linzy Fisher. East of

Rowans' is Kids Country and Video Country Rentals occupying the 50 year old Kraft Cheese building. (Photos by Afton Bitton).



Irrigation, flood control, and recreation are the earmarks of the Ririe Dam, which has wide appeal to people all over the area and to tourists. The dam was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1962. The recreational areas announced in the brochure before the dam was built were to be Creekside, Sage Park, Benchland, Blacktail, and Deer Creek. (Photos by Bitton). In 1986, Robert Bower pictured a fish and game truck shooting fingerlings into Blacktail. Each recreation area was to feature a specialty. Other areas cater to water skiing or boating. Picnic areas on the shores are placed in attractive settings. At the dam site especially, there are grassy areas for a visitor's area and also special spaces for RV campsites.



The social life that Ririe provided Antelope in earlier days, it still provides to many of them — and more so. Swan Valleyeans, however, depend much less in the social area on Ririe, since the movie houses and the well-loved Saturday night dances are only memories. High school and church events, however, still offer socializing, and, symbolically, the two areas are assured an everlasting bond since some Swan Valley people have purchased plots in the Ririe-Shelton cemetery.

Who were those earliest settlers in the Poplar-Ririe area, and why did they choose to homestead there? One can only speculate as to motives and, certainly reasons varied from person to person. Some would prefer to settle down close to Eagle Rock and other somewhat-established communities and others probably just liked the lay of the land. Strangely, Ririe and Poplar were not homesteaded much earlier than lands farther east, according to land patents.

The earliest land patents were recorded to Clemens M. Herrman in 1888 and Robert H. Smith and Thom Edwards in 1889. In 1892, Robert W. Miller, Edward Stauffer, and Joseph A. Freeze gained patents and Harvey Freeze and Joseph Welch in 1893. In 1894 land was granted to Edward Calvert and Frank Bowan and in 1895 to Frank P. Daniels and Horace Egan. F. L. and Marge Brown, William A. Heath, Frank K. Rysett and Claude M. Carlyle patented in 1898 and William Moore and Josiah Yound in 1899. Early birds of the Twentieth Century included Edward Morgan 1900, Leah Ellen Lovell 1901, George H. Rasmussen 1904, Edmund Lovell 1908, Frank Brown and Edna L. Ressor 1909 and Charles Daniels 1911. In the next decades several dozens came.

East of Poplar early homesteaders included Joseph C. Morgan 1907, John T. Morgan 1908 and James McGregor 1910. Of the several who crossed the South Fork to homestead on the north shore, Hans H. Thomsen was first patented in 1910.

Even now as the traveler arrives at Ririe's outskirts, he senses that he is in a part of the county that promises more and more mountain environment as he proceeds eastward.

'County of Contrasts' Shows Versatility

ANTELOPE FLATS TO CONANT VALLEY. When the traveler crossed Antelope Flats on the old Highway 26, the road was not raised above the farmland as it now is. Therefore, **snow fences** were placed parallel to the highway to deflect blowing snow which threatened to close the road. (Photo in 1958 by Afton Bitton)

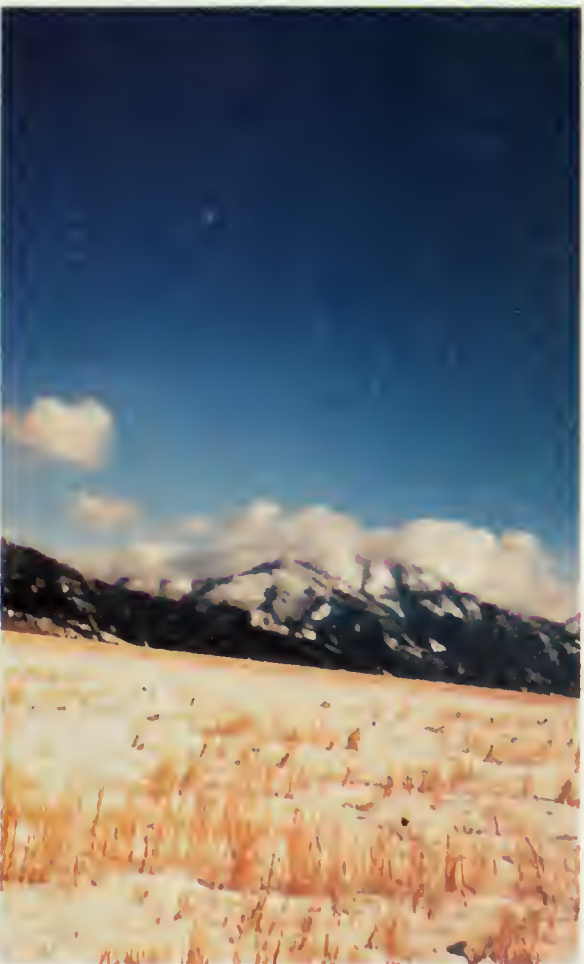
MYSTERIOUS FOG. Another hazard to the winter driver is fog, which to the artist, however, can be a pleasure. The **herons' nests** in tall cottonwoods in Conant Valley are a case in point. Such "cranedominiums" can be found in the tall trees up and down the South Fork. Another scene showing the beauty of Conant Valley appears across the page. A **hay swather** works close to a sprinkler line. (Photos by Robert Bower)

OTHER HARVESTS. Hay and grain are the two foremost crops on Antelope. (Photos by Bob Schweiger)

GATEWAYS TO SPLENDOR. Off Highway 26 on Antelope and Granite, several owners have erected **imposing portals** to indicate the driveways to their homes, which often sit back against the scenic hills. The recently renovated rest-stop at Clark's Hill on Antelope is an unusual respite for travelers. It offers them not only up-to-date facilities but also a rare view of one of the Snake River chasms. Cottonwoods in autumn on the islands below, would make Midas look twice. (Photos by Afton Bitton)

VAST VISTAS. On the north side of the road, **Targhee mountains** at a distance hedge the stretching plains. Golden stubble thrusting up through white snow backed by the dark blue range presents a picture of strong contrasts. (Photo by Afton Bitton)





FLOWING FROM PALISADES DAM TO HEISE. On Highway 26 the motorist, cyclist or hitch-hiker catches glimpses of the South Fork "Art Gallery." To see the full exhibit, however, it is wise to hire a float trip down the Snake.

RARE ROCKS. Between the sportsman's access at Conant Valley and the dock near Black's Canyon, floaters see an interesting variety of **geological formations.** (See picture across the page by Ruth B. Doe).

RIVER ISLANDS, throughout the float, harbor horses, cattle and various species of wild life including birds, deer, elk, moose and even an occasional cougar. When the cottonwoods and willows turn shades of gold and red in the fall, the effect is impressive. (See photo at right by Randy Hayes.)

TWILIGHT TONES. After sundown is Swan Valley, often the sky takes on a lavender hue. From one of the eddies in western Swan Valley this scene was captured. **Tall cottonwoods** along the river often frame the eastern range, dominated by Baldy Mountain with Little Baldy as his squire. (Photo by Afton Bitton)

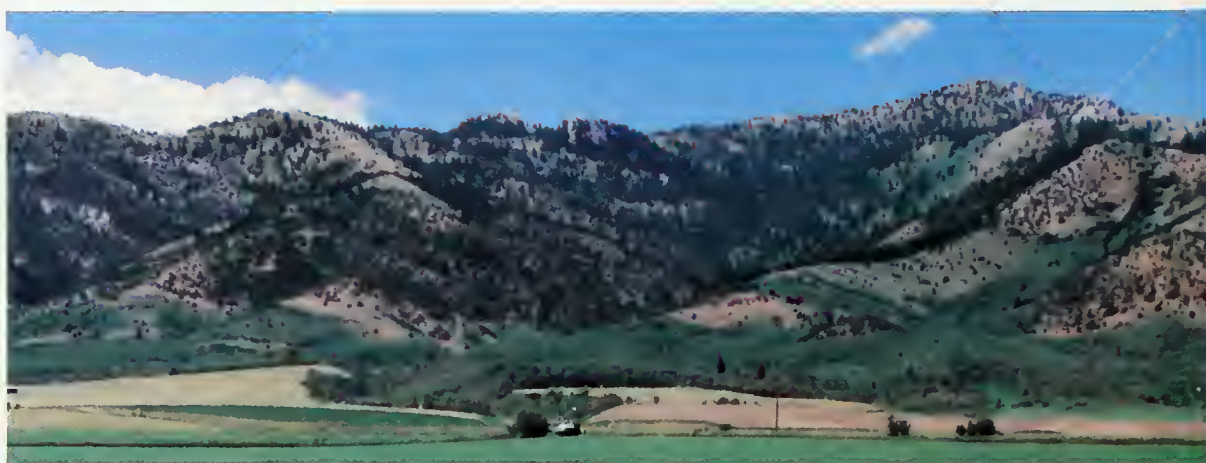
OTHER RIVER VIEWS. The motorist or boatman has taken, at one time or another, the glimpses pictured **right to left at the bottom of these two pages.** The **third bridge** built across the Snake into Swan Valley was erected after 1927 and was hauled away in recent years after the wider topless fourth bridge was installed. Next, the reader sees **Baldy Mountain** from a camera pointed east over a river eddy by the Fall Creek road. River guides can provide strange experiences for their clients. For example, John Hill helped to stage **an on-the-river wedding** in the 1970's. Just below the Palisades Dam, the Rev. Judith Donaldson, Chapel in the Valley, and the bride and bridegroom rode together in a flower-decked boat while the attendants floated behind. Vows were exchanged just before a heavy rain drove the party to cover. (Photos by Afton Bitton)

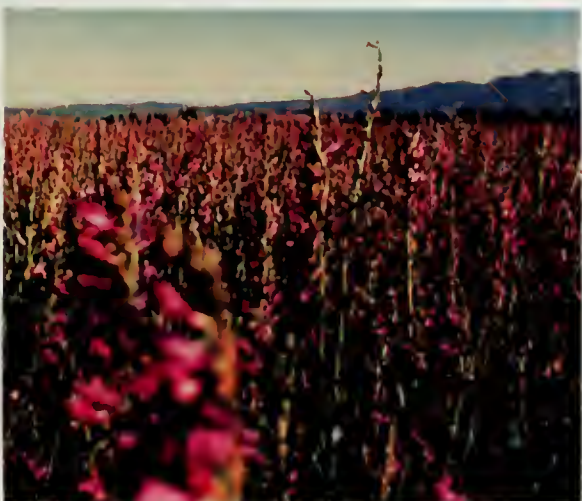




TWO PINE BENCHES. Pine Creek flows beside Highway 31 from north to south and then veers westward in a deep canyon until it falls into the Snake River near Granite Pass. The evergreen lined chasm divides North Pine Creek Bench from the South Bench. Crops on these benches include grains and hays and a few exotic grasses and flowers. The largest ranch on the North Bench was the Diamond-X, patented in 1902 to Dan B. and Rebecca Jacobs, along with a parcel they bought from Laurence F. Hansen. Joacim Kruse purchased it in 1910 and its present owners are Al and Evelyn Kruse Courchaine.

CANYONS AND FARMS. Diamond-X mountain the face of which is split by Diamond-X Canyon, as the center photo on page 244 shows, gave rise to the name of Jacobs' large ranch. The original homestead spread was 960 acres. The scene above this shows well known Pine Creek Canyon as a background for a hayfield on the Joe Kruse ranch. Joe photographed these two scenes along with his field of cinquefoil, a non-bloat hay (upper right, p. 245). In the distance one can see the tree-lined Pine Creek Chasm. To the left is another Kruse ranch crop being harvested by Tom Goe. (Photo by Selma Goe). Below, is D.D. Jacobs' sod-covered homestead, built at the turn of the century and photographed by Joe Kruse as it looks today.





SOUTH BENCH FEATURES. Many unusual sights make the South Bench a sightseer's joy. Among these has been an **oil drilling rig**, the lights of which could be seen all over Swan Valley on a dark night. Most of Swan Valley underwent underground testing for the proper geological makeup for an oil site. A well drilling was attempted in Oakden Canyon, but the company ceased operations in late 1988. (Photo by Bob Schweiger)

On the far western rim of South Bench, very tall grasses and various wild flowers are grown for seed by Delbert and June Winterfeld. Shown here are **fields of blue Lewis flax** raised in 1983 and **purple penstemon strictus** in 1986. When the onlooker views several different kinds of flowers blooming side by side in acres of straight rows he can hardly believe his eyes. Six feet tall grasses are also a South Bench spectacle. (Photos by Delbert Winterfeld)

SWAN VALLEY - RAINEY AND BALDY. Two natural aspects dominate Swan Valley—Rainey Creek and Baldy Mountain, the latter forming the eastern border of the Valley. Baldy and its companion on the south, Little Baldy, are also significant sentinels in Irwin. Rainey Creek flows from high north in the Targhee Forest down a canyon on the north front of Baldy and meanders through farms at the foot of Baldy. From there it continues to snake around in a westerly direction, passing near the Swan Valley Commissary and heading south and west through other farmlands. Finally, not far above the Snake River bridge the creek commingles with river eddies. The confluence is a favorite fishing spot.

UP RAINEY CREEK CANYON. Elk and deer congregate up this canyon in the winter and early spring to be fed by the Fish and Game Department. Lynn Merrill, local conservation officer, is in charge of distribution. For nearly a decade, Francis (Frank) Beam has made daily trips up the canyon to toss hay and pellets to the hungry animals. (Two small photos by Francis Beam). Deer prefer fruit. For the past three years deer have been eating the fallen apples from the tree on the late Harry and Julia Bitton ranch. (Photo by Afton Bitton, from her study window)



ALONG THE STREAM. In the western end of the valley, Rainey Creek becomes broader and mossier, cattail marshes rim the stream and Baldy Mountain forms an imposing backdrop at the east. Whether it is **late September (top photo)** or **early May (bottom photo)**, Baldy is likely to be wearing a white toupee. Between the highway and the creek is the western end, many a tourist has paused to wonder about or to enter a **sod-covered hut**.



The rustic cottage stands on what is now Robert Fleming, Jr.'s land. When he was young (around the 1920's) the owner lived in this cabin for a short time with his parents, the late Robert and Anna Fleming and his brother Jerry. About a mile east is the community of Swan Valley, the center of which for many years has been the Swan Valley Commissary, a store no tourist seems to be able to pass up without buying a square ice cream cone. (Photos by Afton Bitton)



PALISADES COUNTRY. Behind Mt. Baldy, the Targhee Forest hosts some really high country in Northeastern Bonneville County. The majesty of the views and an unusual eco-system has caused the area to be considered for federal preservation. **Governor Cecil Andrus** is pictured here by **Rocky Barker** as he rides Swan Valley's high country making evaluations.

Below Andrus' picture is a scene copped by film in 1958. **Palisades Lake 30 years ago** looked much the same as it does today. This secluded liquid opal, two or three miles in circumference, has been the goal of many hikers and horseback riders. It is inaccessible by motor. Here Melvin Hincks with a horse concession at the end of Palisades Canyon, is shown guiding a group of Tri-Hi-Y campers home from an overnight at the lake. (Photo by Bitton)

MOUNTAIN FOLIAGE. Cedars, pines, aspens, scarlet mountain maples and ashes accent many a hilltop in the Targhee Forest. (Photo by Afton Bitton)

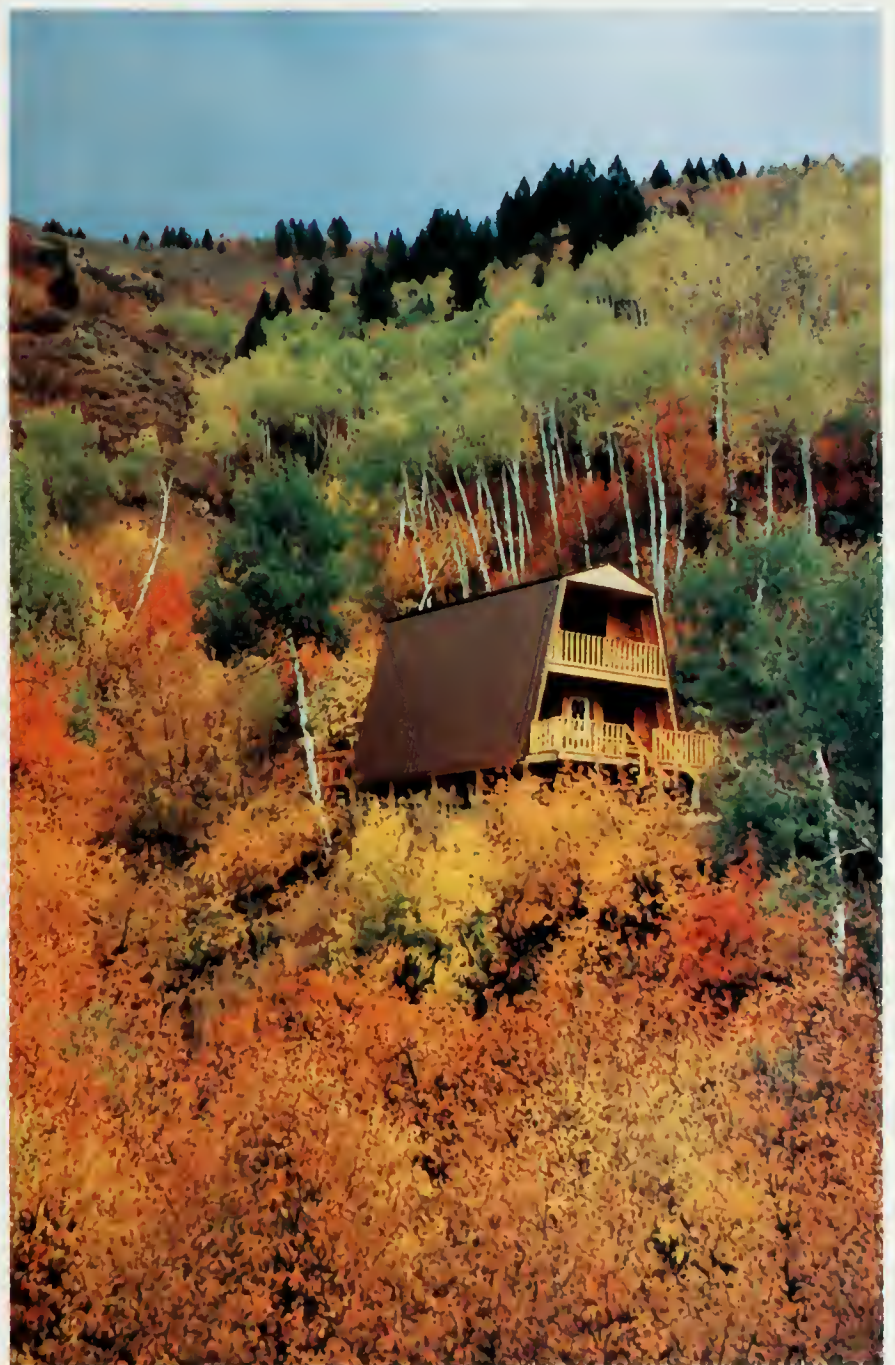




RUSHING STREAM. From the mountain lake Palisades Creek foams and roars southward for several miles until it reaches Highway 26. There it is diverted into **Palisades Canal**, which runs westward through Irwin and provides irrigation. In the picture, **Dennis Bitton**, valley water master, stands on a headgate and reads a depth gauge in the canal.

AN EYE TO CARIBOU FOREST. South of Palisades Canyon are **Irwin-Palisades farmlands** and beyond them a view of the Caribou Forest across the South Fork.

SUMMER HOMES. Summer homes begin near Palisades Canyon and dot the hillsides all the way to the Wyoming line. A county survey revealed about one thousand such residences in the area. **One of the striking cabins** is this one close to the highway. (Photos by Afton Bitton)



WHO NEEDS VERMONT? Come late September the place to go for a bath in colored leaves is near the **Palisades Reservoir** and its surroundings. Trips up Palisades Creek, Sheep Creek, Bear Creek, Indian Creek - any of these and other canyons - will yield golds and reds to the eye's content. Or just stay on Highway 26 and drive past the dam on up to the Wyoming line. On the right are the colorful shorelines of the reservoir, rich with foliage on both sides of the water. On the left are numerous ravines glowing scarlet with maples and dotted with hints of yellow, the promise of golden aspen groves.

Little Elk and Big Elk Creeks pool into lakes left of the highway. High Mountains in the background are sometimes topped by snow even in September. **Lichen and maple trees emerging in the grey rocks** near the dam give the motorists reason to ponder the artistic ways of nature. Vivid blues in the lakes and sky add their accent to her colorful canvas. **See Little Elk, lower right, as it appeared in 1986.** (Photos by Afton Bitton)

WHAT THE DROUGHT HAS WROUGHT. In 1988 the Palisades Reservoir receded until it was almost down to the original river bed, as the pictures on page 251 reveal. **The scene lower right by Afton Bitton** shows the railing of a submerged bridge emerging.

Old Highway 26, running down the middle of the inundated Grand Valley, crossed over this bridge at Indian Creek, which now serves as a boat ramp and camp ground. (Aerial photo by Quincy Jensen and top photo by Bob Schweiger)





FALL CREEK. From south to north, Fall Creek flows down a canyon, at one point through a plateau smelling from sulphur springs, and swerves east about a mile upriver from the South Fork bridge entering Swan Valley. Soon it

tumbles over a precipice into the river. In the spring the cascade is impressive in its mass. Later the gallons diminish **as the scene below shows.** An array of wild gooseberry and yellow currant bushes above the falls invites berry pickers.

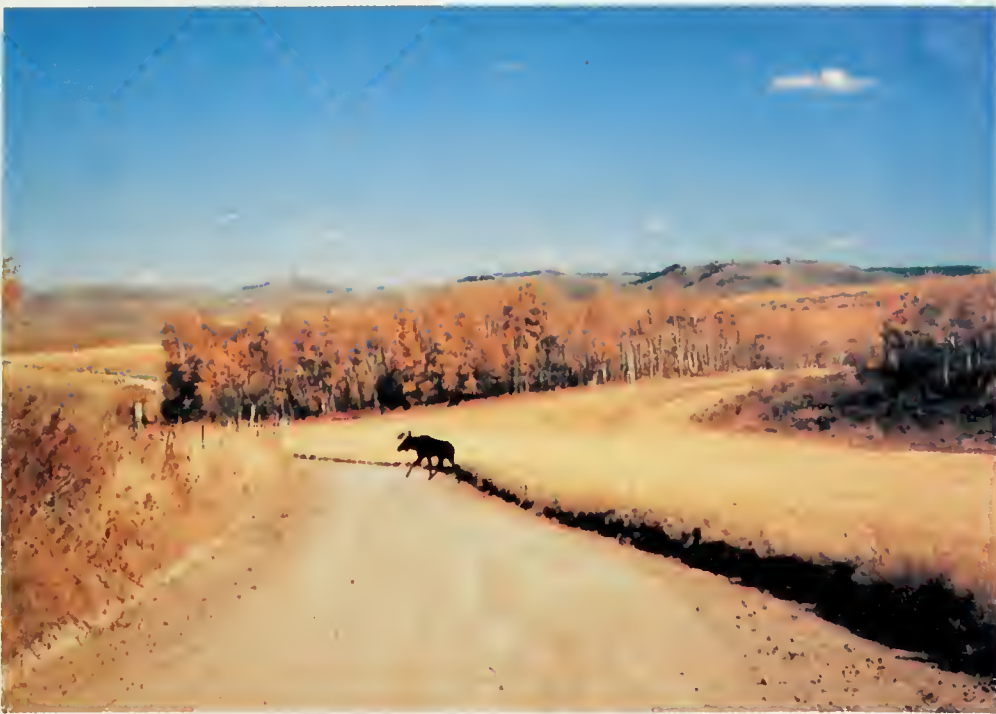
Chokecherries are plentiful near the falls and up the creek. Wild roses add to the graceful beauty of the vista. (Photo by Robert Bower)

The 'WESTBANK'. Natives on the south side of the river somewhat east of the falls call their area the Westbank. Most others call the entire area Fall Creek. This land has many natural attractions. For one thing, the farms wending in and out of stands of evergreen and working their way through every clearing nearly to the top of the ridge form a marvelous patchwork of golds and greens. There are heron rookeries on the steep inclines. **A large riverside campground, a travertine mine atop one mountain and wild flowers and song birds galore.** A forest fire like the Currant Creek blaze in 1966, seems a double shame in such an idyllic place. Near the turn of the century, Fall Creek was the site of considerable gold panning. Fortunately, this industry did not develop into a devastating venture. (Mine photo by Alice Horton; roadway to the campground by Afton Bitton)



CROSSING INTO SOUTHERN BONNEVILLE. Northeastern Bonneville is separated from Southeastern Bonneville by a series of ridges and forests. Early travelers made their way around, through or over these bulwarks with trails and roads. (See the views of Kepps Crossing below taken by Quincy Jensen), Hugh Whitney, an outlaw who shot folks who stood in his way, politely paid his hosts for his meal at Kepps Crossing. The roads throughout southern Bonneville County are largely undeveloped but **the sign system** is relatively sophisticated. (See photo center right by Alice Horton). The moose is also by Horton.

Moose, beaver and other wildlife enjoy the freedom of this area marked by small creeks, grassy plains, untreed hills, aspen groves and large fields of grain and hay. Bone is a sort of gateway to the southern regions. **Alice Horton has captured Joe Johnson**, proprietor, outside the Bone Store and Randy Hayes has snapped Steve Judy atop a grain elevator at Bone.





GRAY'S LAKE TO CARIBOU. The southern county, still somewhat unbridled and isolated, has variety in its industries and ambience, as the scenes here indicate. In the west is Gray's Lake, which features farming and stockraising, and which also contains a national wildlife refuge. The refuge in summer is home to a variety of bird species, particularly waterfowl. The area has gained recent fame for its program to rehabilitate the whooping crane. At left a machine dredges a ditch to adjust water-flow to bird nesting areas. (Photo by Bob Schweiger)



CATTLE AND SHEEP. Everywhere in the county, cattle and sheep roam the ranges, and they are found in abundance in the southern grasslands and in the Caribou Forest. Shepherders live in modest comfort in compact houses on wheels. Many interiors are not as fancy as the one pictured here by Robert Bower. Bob Schweiger photographed the cattle drive.



PRISTINE STILL, FROM AFAR. Caribou Peak (right) the county's highest mountain (9,805 feet) brings a serene presence to the eastern sky. Distance hides the ravages of man and of nature upon the surface of the mountain. In the gold rush of the late 1800's, fortune hunters blind to its beauty, gutted and gouged the mountain and when finished left most of their debris behind. Reminders of nature's power to wreak havoc included avalanches and a denuding forest fire. Most of the cabins there now, were built by fairly recent miners. The fire removed many vestiges of the first miners.

Opposite page, clockwise from upper left: Mountain by Bob Schweiger, sole cabin at Keenan City site and ore chute on Caribou by Alice Horton, "Nola B", a Robinson claim last mined by Fred Brenisinger in the 1940's, and the avalanche on the east side of the mountain near Pittsburgh mine by Quincy Jensen.

Keenan City, named for John Keenan, who discovered gold on McCoy Creek, had a population of 500 with an adjoining town to 400.



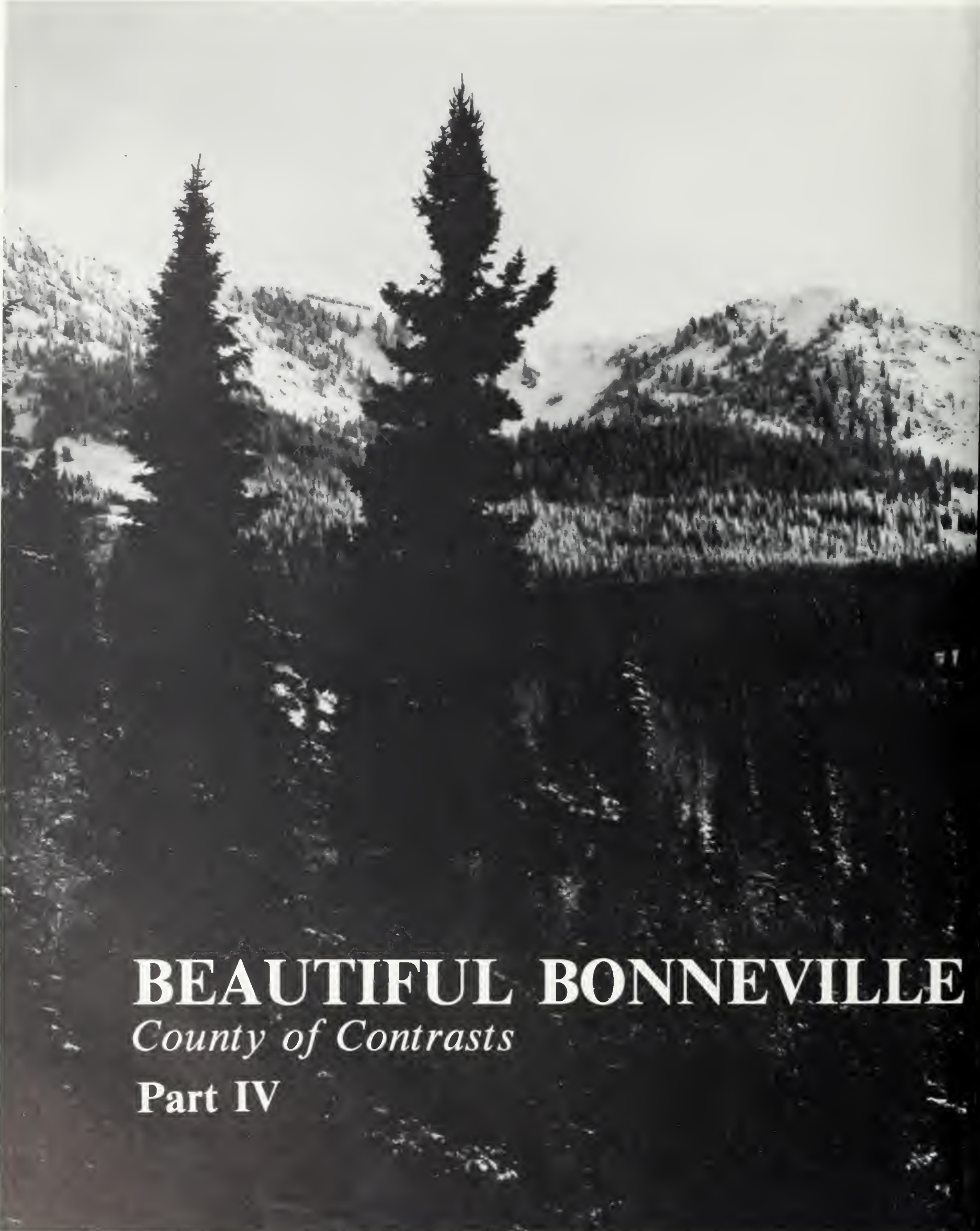




Sandhill Crane parents and their adopted Whooper chick at Gray's Lake National Wildlife Refuge. (Photo courtesy Gray's Lake Refuge)



Gray's Lake National Wildlife Refuge in southern Bonneville County (Photo courtesy Post Register)



BEAUTIFUL BONNEVILLE

County of Contrasts

Part IV



SOUTHERN BONNEVILLE COUNTY

Patti Sherlock
Editor and Writer

Climb to a ridge in southeastern Bonneville County, gaze over spring-watered aspen groves and log shearing corrals and breathe in the fresh smell of space. On the horizon, locate a towering peak — in the valley, a snowmelt-swollen stream — in the willows, a moose. Listen to a chukar squirrel's trill, a hawk's scream and the poignant call of a mourning dove. Pretend you are a pioneer. For here, in this section of the county, open valley and panoramic vistas called early settlers. Even today, the mountains retain the feeling of wildness and call a siren song to town dwellers.

To this area, bird lovers from across the world come to view rare Whooping Cranes. Ghost town fanciers sift through remains at Caribou City, where the past is bright with gold and dark with scandal. In summer, sheepherders and their treasured dogs move sheep up steep sagebrush hills. Boys and girls catch their limit of trout. Eccentric prospectors stake out a section of stream and watch homemade dredges for signs of gold.

In the fall, ranchers round up cattle, hunters move through pine forest stalking deer and elk and Sunday drivers meander dusty roads to gaze at golden aspens.

In winter, snowmobilers and cross-country skiers play on a ten-foot-deep blanket of snow.

High above all this activity, in every season, the sun moves across a shining blue sky. When evening comes, it will fall onto the distant desert floor, splashing pink, purple and orange everywhere. And the person on the ridge in southern Bonneville County will understand what pulled pioneers to an uncertain future in the West.

Caribou Mountain (Photo by Quincy Jensen)

Bone

Gateway into this area of the county is the community of Bone, long distinguished by the Bone Store. Bone was named neither for fossils discovered there nor for the area's "bone" dry Augusts, but for early settler Orin Bone. Bone opened the first store and was the first postmaster.

Since its earliest days, the Bone Store has caught the public's interest. Orin Bone, helped by neighbors, moved the Birch Creek Schoolhouse to a location only a stone's throw from the present store. En route the building became stuck near Canyon Creek and men had to blast out rocks to widen the road so the moving could continue.

Spence Williams operated the store until almost 1958. When he died, the story goes, a relative searching for a ru-

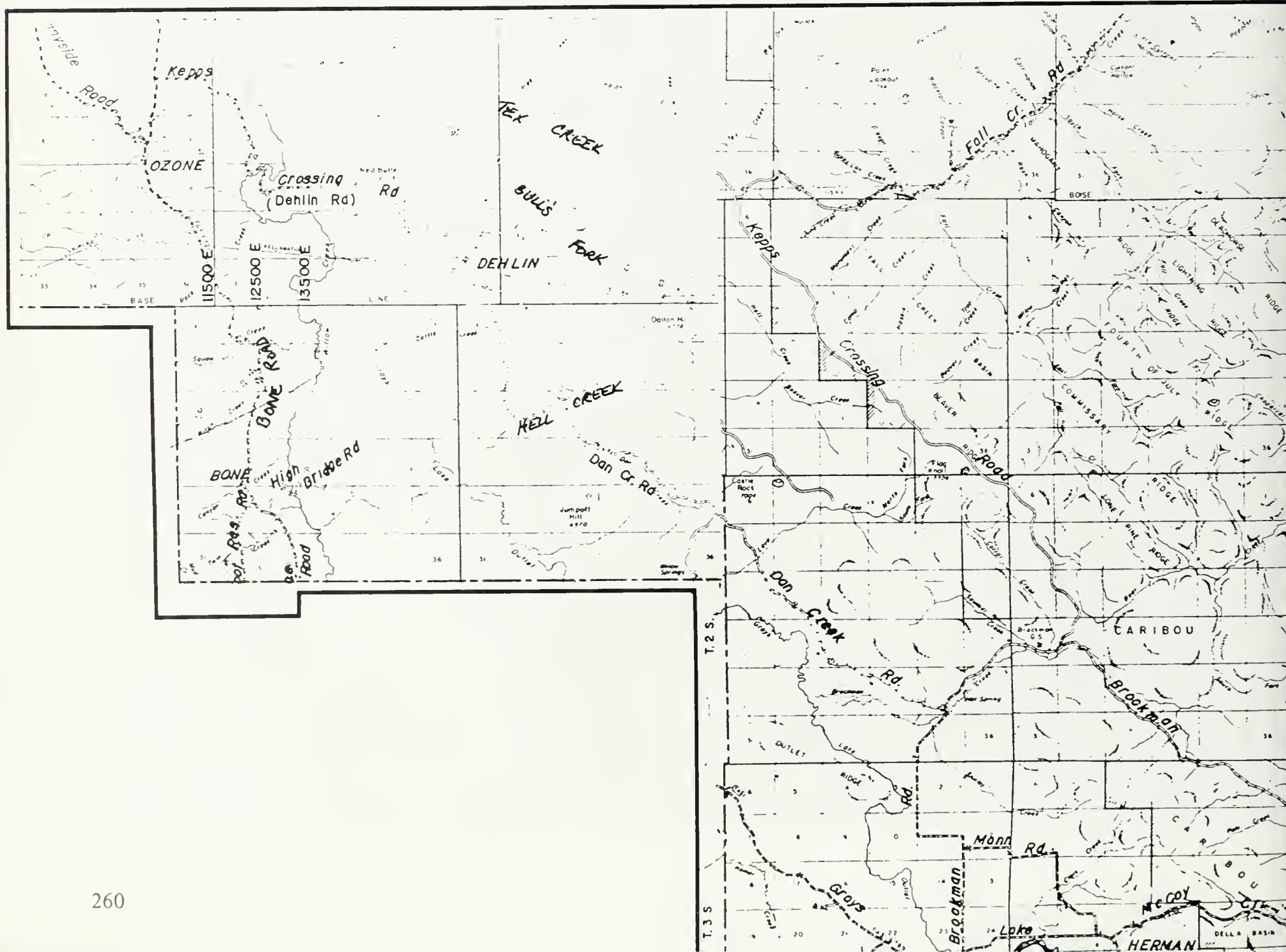
mored million-dollar nest egg tore the store down board by board. No treasure was found. The leftover debris was burned.

Tom Robison, youngest of 12 children of a homesteading family and heir to the farm, believed Bone needed a store. He donated land to Max Rockwood for the building of one. The store became a place for sheepmen, cattlemen and farmers to gather and eat lunch, quench their thirst and visit. By then pickups and autos had replaced horses, so the store also sold gasoline.

Rockwood sold out to Noble Craig, who with his wife operated it for a time. Robert and Venetta (Vee) Bell took over the store and instituted new traditions and preserved old ones. One old tradition popular with the customers was the pickled egg. Vee learned to make them and found they were a dependably good seller. Sometimes people from long distances would come to request a pickled egg.

The egg wasn't the only attraction, however; tourists could hope to be visiting the store when Tom and Elsie Robison dropped by. With any luck, the visitor might hear the tale of Tom's baby hogs, who would stretch out in line across his legs, waiting for their bellies to be scratched in time to a tune Tom sang. Or Tom might point out the 1917 cabin with the rock chimney located in trees behind the store where he and Elsie lived. Or he might brag about how Elsie was running the combine while he was gone so that they could bring three loads of grain to town in a day. When Tom died in the winter of 1989, his neighbors and widow mourned not only the loss of a gifted storyteller but also a kind friend.

Many stockmen who dropped by the Bone Store mentioned missing livestock. The Bells decided they could help. They made their ceiling available so ranchers could stamp their brands upon it. That way, ranchers could help identify strays they came across. The ceiling became





Dollar bills decorate the ceiling of the Bone Store. Visitors are welcomed in this 1989 picture. (Photos by Alice Horton) Josephine Andrews, Elsie and Tom Robison at Robison's home in 1983. H.C. Robison in front of 1917 cabin with rock chimney. (Photos courtesy of Elsie Robison)



one more attraction for visitors.

In the 70's, the Bells decided to start keeping the store open year-round to accommodate the snowmobile crowd.

Today the store has a new wrinkle. Dollar bills cover much of the ceiling. Visitors from as far away as Saudi Arabia and New Zealand have pinned bills to the ceiling to be remembered by. The store continues to stay open year-round. Proprietor Joe Johnson supplies a display board for mock wanted posters, jokes and business cards. He offers up good conversation as part of the fare and he'll even give tips to picture-takers on where the store's semi-tame moose might be shaded up.

In the past decade, Bone has gained national fame. Syndicated cartoonist Phil Frank, creator of "Travels with Farley," drew a series of strips about an imaginary plan to visit Bone, Idaho. In a letter to Vee Bell, Frank explained he was searching the map for a place the cartoon's dog hero might want to visit. Bone, of course, caught his attention. When he tried to make a call to the Bone City Hall, an operator explained to him there were no phones in Bone. Frank



based his cartoon series on that theme.

When phones finally came to Bone in 1982, the story attracted national attention because the community was one of the last to get telephone service. Local people found their images and quotes appearing on national television. Marla and Dale Meyers, who circulated the petition to install telephones, received letters from people across the world who had seen newspapers or television reports.

The Bone area is a place to listen. (Photo by Bob Schweiger)

Above: Gardner Johnson stands outside the Bone Store when the phones came to Bone.

Top, right: A Bone, Idaho bone hangs inside the Bone Store when the phones came to Bone.

Bottom, right: Sheila Barney, Rexburg, rests her team of Percheron horses in front of the Bone Store when the phones came to Bone.

(All photos of when the phones came to Bone by Robert Bower)



Early Settlement in Bone

Abe Day came to the area in 1900. His daughter, Edna Day Empey of Idaho Falls, was the first of the Day children to be born in Bone. She was their third child; eventually there would be thirteen.

Wendall Day still farms homesteaded land handed down in his family. He has expanded his holdings to 4,000-5,000 acres, but the original 320 acres his father Abe Day filed on gave the family their Bone roots.

Mrs. Empey remembers how it was. "Mother made all the clothes, Dad made the money. Our mother, Lucy, kept things rolling, our father started the dry farm, planted hay and grazed cattle where it wasn't good plowing ground. When other pioneers moved on, Dad bought up relinquished land."

Before cities had mayors, Mrs. Empey recalled, they had "city dads". Her father was the president of the Ammon city fathers. In addition to running sheep, which he lambed in the Birch

Creek area, he also raised cattle and grain.

The family and cows returned to Ammon in the winter rather than buck the four to ten foot snow. Edna remembers helping to drive the cows down. But she couldn't wait for school to be out so she could ride horses and go fishing on Willow Creek. "You could catch a nice five-pound trout without much trouble," she said.

Mrs. Empey, along with others, remembers the fun of the Bone dances. Usually there was a three piece band, made up of fiddles and a banjo. The whole family attended, and when it was time for young children to go to bed, parents put blankets down in the corners for them. At midnight a large supper was laid out. Then there was more dancing, visiting and fun. Shortly before daylight, the tired dancers loaded into their



Pictured are the Bone School front view and side view with teacher Leo Abbott and students. (Photos courtesy Elsie Robison)



buggies or wagons and headed for home, to be there in time to feed livestock.

Settlers did not think you could overdo dancing. In summer, dances occurred almost every Saturday night, though not all were in Bone. Dehlin, Ozone and Gray's Lake hosted dances.

Violet Ockerman Butler's family, which came to Bone in 1922, also moved out in the winter. Her father raised sheep and he lambed them in Blackfoot. But her husband Francis' family lived up in the hills year round and attended the Deer Creek school. Deer Creek held summer session because no one could hope to get to the school in winter.

Francis Butler tells his offspring he was the first in his class at Deer Creek. He often neglects to add that he was the only member of his class, though he did have schoolmates of assorted other grades in his one-room school. Butler is retired from ranching now, but can't resist helping to take the cattle to the hills in summer.

*From
Mr. & Mrs. R.O. Breeding
BOIWE - Idaho*



Mr. & Mrs. Reed Stanger

BONE

Idaho



Letters bore Bone postmarks in 1929. The early mail truck parked at Bone Store. (Photos courtesy Eva Stranger and Edna Empey)

BONE IN THE FORTIES

There's a place I know
Sorta up in the hills
Where we dance all night
For joy and thrills

Tis a place called Bone
Where you whoop and yell
And you never drink alone
Or it looks like hell

Tis just a store and dance hall
Where we come to have fun
And if you stay till morning
You'll have your blues on the run

Tis a place we go
On a Saturday night
To dance and drink
And sometimes fight



Now take the store
A bar at one end
Sometimes so crowded
You can't squeeze in

There's Charles Ockerman
Drinking the wine
He smacks his lips
And says boys that's fine

And there's Cornell Davis
Drinking raw whiskey
And maybe explains
Why he's feeling so frisky

Here's Lou Singleton
The son-of-a-gun
Says let's get a jug
And have some fun

Here Bud Peterson
Drinking the beer
His eyes get blurry
Like a loco steer

There's old Mike
Just warbling a tune
All that he's hoping
The crowd doesn't leave too soon

And there's old Spence
Behind the bar
Hoping the boys
Won't indulge too far

There's Reed Stanger and Eva
From up Sheep Mountain way
Comin' to the Old School House
Just to dance and play.

There is Buck Butler
With a grin on his face
Escourting Ella May
Into the place



Here's Wayne Robison
And he gives a snort
I'll take a long one
And then a short

And there's Wayne's wife
Tendin' the kids
While Wayne's in the dance
Doin' a jig

Here is Bill Bethkey
The Bone clown
Always a-jokin
With everyone round

And there is Reece Bybee
The prosperous sheepman
And his wife Frankie
Keeping up if she can

Here is Gene Clapp
And his wife also
Coming to see if they
Can still do-se-do

Here's Tom and Elsie
Lookin' their best
Coming to party
Along with the rest

And here's Tom Caldwell
And his family of six
Coming to the hoe-down
Up in the sticks

There is Bish and his family
Coming through the door
He doesn't stay long and
He leaves before four.

Here's Juanita and Rube
The loud-mouthed cuss
Telling tall tales
And he sure knows his stuff



Here is the Ockerman
And Butler girls
Saying come on and dance
And give us a whirl

There is Alva Butler
The sixteen-year-old jigger
Shinin' up to the girls
Just as if he were bigger

And here a-comin
Just like the wind
Is all the Day crowd
And they stay to the end

There is Stella
And Mark Beck too
He sees enough
For both me and you

There is Frank Stanger
And his wife Genieve
Coming to Bone
On a Saturday Eve

In Brazil on a mission
 Dick Stanger is there
 And I bet he's wishing
 He were only here

And here are the Beasleys
 Looking right gay
 Wishing the crowd
 Would get out of their way

Here are the Demotts
 And Dick not far
 Standing beside him
 Is his guitar

Here are the Elkingtons'
 Coming to Bone
 They'd rather be there
 Than all stay at home



Here are the Myer's
 Coming to town
 To see if Bill Caldwell
 Is hangin' around

There's Erma and Hap
 All filled with joy
 Because they have got
 A young baby boy

And there is Walt Kepp
 With a pint in his car
 And Gardner Johnson
 Ain't very far

Now there is Dad and Mother
 Who thinks I am screwy
 Says it's all nonsense
 And a lot of hoocy

Now there is me
 I ain't sayin' who
 Under each arm
 Is a jug or two

And here a-coming
 Is a town crowd too
 And the way they come
 You'd swear they flew

And there the town boys
 Do that jitterbug stuff
 They don't think us hill-boys
 Dance good enough

Here comes Vern and Ruth
 Around about one
 With a quart of Canadian Club
 And the fun's just begun

And there is the girl
 Who gets bumped in the nose
 And the girl you dance with
 Says keep off my toes



We're all a-yellin
 And feeling right gay
 We don't seem to mind
 If we get in each other's way

If we come to Bone
 And the music's not there
 We make our own music
 And it sounds pretty fair

As Home Sweet Home comes
 It sure is a fright
 But there'll be another dance
 Next Saturday night

Leaving the dance
 Whoopin' and hollerin'
 It's a sound worse than rangebulls
 Bellerin' and bawlin'

Then up to Days
 For a chicken fry
 All of us merry
 And all feeling spry

Or up to Vern's cabin
 Just a cow-hop or two
 For coffee and sandwiches
 Or an oyster stew

More likely to Ockerman's
 For sagehens they've got
 But if the game wardens saw us
 We'd surely be caught

Or sometimes at Butler's
 For a weiner roast
 To lay by the fire
 To brag and boast

And sometimes Cornell
 He furnishes the chicks
 For he's got more tame hens
 Than anyone in the sticks



Lettuce for sandwiches
 To Empeys we go
 And if he does mind
 I'm sure we don't know

Now this is the country
 We all call Bone
 And if you don't like it
 You can sure stay at home

When our times come
 And who can tell
 We may go to heaven
 But I doubt it like hell.

"Bone in the Forties" was written by Woodrow Butler, whose parents Ralph and Carrie homesteaded in the Bone area. Woodrow, one of fifteen children, was raised in Bone and attended the Bone School. He and his brother Ralph still own the original homestead, where they run cattle in summer. Woodrow and his wife live in Blackfoot.



How the community of Bone looked in the 1930's. (Photo courtesy Post Register)

Abe Day on his black horse George in the 4th of July parade in Idaho Falls, 1914. (Photo courtesy Edna Empey)

Paul Crowder and Basil Fossbinder pause on a trip to Bone. Their plane had a 600 cubic inch engine and flew one hundred miles per hour. (Photo by Quincy Jensen) Two snowmobilers head for Bone in winter. (Photo by Robert Bower)





Ozone

Ozone today has large farms of vast acreages set among panoramic mountain vistas. But in the early 1900's, Ozone was a busy settlement made up of numerous small homesteads, a school, a general store, a hotel, a livery, a rooming house and a confectionary. Residents even had a private telephone system.

In 1913, Ozone was a voting precinct. It boasted a Red Cross chapter, an active Farm Bureau and its own baseball team. On Saturdays, fans left their plows idle and rode off to watch their team take on players from Shelton, Iona, Dehlin, Lincoln and Tipperary. Ozone received mail from Idaho Falls three times a week. For a period before 1920, Ozone was the central community for families in Dehlin, Bone, Henry Creek and Tipperary.

Nephi Otteson operated the Ozone

Store. Nephi and Lenore Otteson's first home was a tent. Later, the couple built a two-room house. To that they added another room plus an upstairs. The store, which began as a place to sell lunch supplies, was located in the east room of their house. The store grew into an enterprise that sold everything from shoes to harnesses. Lenore became the first postmistress of Ozone.

One of Ozone's earliest settlers was David Campbell. He plowed a line around a claim near Badger Creek in 1908. His young sons Alfred and Lewis (Lewis was only eight) held the claim for him. They lived in a tent, gathered dry aspen wood for fires and cooked on a tin stove.

In 1909, Mrs. Campbell and the family came to the hills. She and the younger children held the claim while the older boys and their father worked in the valley to earn money to build fences and buildings. Watercress grew so abundantly

the family was able to cut it and sell it to Idaho Falls grocery stores.

Reuben Barzee, who came to Ozone in 1908 with his wife Ada, was a Civil War veteran. He had crossed the plains with Mormon settlers and then several times freighted supplies from the east to the Salt Lake Valley by ox teams. During these trips he had encounters with hostile Native Americans. He was a good marksman and helped to keep his companions in buffalo meat.

Badger Creek, where many families settled, was named for the numerous badger holes likely to cripple horses. George Gould and Nephi Otteson built a dam above the creek and kids used it for a swimming hole.

A large shearing corral and dipping vat on Badger Creek accommodated the numerous bands of sheep. Using hand shears men like August and Albert Roos made a living in 1909 as shearers.

The Ozone Ward had 203 members.



Non-Mormon members of the community numbered 29. Sometimes the ward performed its baptisms in Willow Creek. Bishop Aaron Judy was the first and last L.D.S. Bishop of Ozone. Phillip Holmquist, Idaho Falls, whose Ozone homestead family was non-Mormon, remembered Bishop Judy as a man of excellent character.

"At Christmas time, Bishop Judy came around driving a sled loaded with gifts. He stopped at every house, Mormon and non-Mormon. If you needed help you got it, it didn't matter what religion you were."

Holmquist remembered wistfully the Ozone confectionary, furnished with fancy tables and wire chairs. It featured hand-dipped candies and ice cream. He recalled yearning for a dime so he could buy the big dish of ice cream, but he always had to settle for the smaller, but still delicious, nickel serving. Ice for the ice cream was made in the winter and

stored underground in the summer.

Teamsters passed through the area often in winter. They hauled grain from the hills to the valley, then returned in caravans, in case they needed to assist each other.

One hill, near the Ozone School, was a hard climb in snow. Drivers often had to stop and hook more horses on to manage it. The situation offered a temptation to children. They would lie in ambush and when drivers become absorbed in pulling up the hill, the youngsters would pelt them with snowballs. All the drivers could do was cuss — they couldn't leave their task.

Ozone schoolteacher Alma Johnson warned her pupils they might someday come to trouble. One day, about a dozen outfits were backed up trying to get up the hill. It was a prankster's dream. While the men struggled, the children bombarded them with icy snowballs. Suddenly the men jumped off their sleighs, whips in hand. The children started to run for home, but it was too late. Some men had circled around and cut off their escape route. While Miss Johnson looked on, the offenders got a thrashing on their backsides that Phil Holmquist said "hurts to this day". That ended the snowballing.

On Friday nights, the community gathered at the school house for dances. Musicians would play fiddle, accordion and mouth harp and singers performed, too.

In 1918, life held only promise for the Ozone settlers. The war was over, prices were up and rain was bountiful. Then in the winter of 1918, the Spanish flu hit. Holmquist remembered some people "dropped dead on the streets" in Idaho Falls. It seemed to hit the young and husky first. Holmquist's mother treated her children with bromo-quinine at the first sign of symptoms. But the flu didn't hit Ozone as hard as it did in some settlements.

In 1919, a dry period began. Some families were forced to leave. By 1930, after years of severe drought, Ozone had shrunk to twelve people. Homestead land could be purchased for back taxes. About that time, mechanized harvesters appeared on the scene. Instead of many small farms the area was now made up of few large farms.

Dehlin

Like Ozone, Dehlin thrived as a community until drought brought about its downfall. In the second decade of the 1900's, Dehlin had 65 families. 30-40 children attended the Dehlin school and the settlement's Fourth of July celebration was famous for miles around. Kerosene lanterns lighted up the school house for dances and L.D.S. residents had enough members to make up a ward.

The settlement first was called Horse Buttes, because of two large buttes nearby. It was renamed after early settler Jack Dehlin when the area qualified for its own post office.

Jack Dehlin homesteaded the area in 1911. Neighbors remembered him as a man who wore metal-rimmed spectacles with oval-shaped lenses that rested over his eyes vertically rather than horizontally. He was a pioneer in the dry farming business and some say he also operated a small sawmill.

Amos and Jed Rockwood homesteaded in the Dehlin area, then sold out soon after proving up. Bryant Rockwood, their brother, married Blanche Haines in 1913 and for a time farmed with his sister Della on Martin's Flat. Their attractive four room cabin set amid quaking aspen trees burned down, the story goes, when a pack rat in the attic chewed the heads of matches and started a fire. Max Rockwood, one of Bryant's seven children, built the second Bone Store.

A. W. Schweider filed at Dehlin in 1913. He taught school there for 2 years. Grades one through eight attended and the teacher's salary was six dollars a month. Schweider later was postmaster and also bishop of the L.D.S. ward. On Sunday mornings, buggies appeared from ravines and canyons, bringing people to church. Schweider continued to operate in the Dehlin area after drought had chased other settlers away.

Good food, contests and horse racing in the meadow near the school attracted many residents of nearby communities to the Dehlin Fourth of July celebrations. Harlan Loveland helped to build the first school, and it was his open



Ozone (Photo by Quincy Jensen)

meadow homesteaders used for celebrations.

When the Henry J. Bodily family moved from Preston to Dehlin in 1918, it took them seven days. Their wagons were loaded with furniture, supplies and clothing. The family lived in Iona and Henry and his sons commuted to the dry farm. He hauled out his grain on horse-drawn wagons or sleighs. In winter, according to Dean Bodily, neighbors had to help each other. One time, a blizzard blew in and Bodily and his sons were lost from 6:00 a.m. one morning until 4:00 a.m. the next day.

Even before the drought hit, Dehlin had its share of tragedy. When the Spanish flu struck, it caused widespread suffering.

Henry Summers was a settler who had filed on 320 acres between Dehlin and Hell Creek. His son-in-law, Harry Oles

and wife filed on an adjoining 320 acres and the two families installed a telephone for communicating between the two farms. Summers managed to stay well during the epidemic but he was kept busy keeping his ill neighbors supplied with wood and caring for his gravely ill wife who almost died.

Hans Hansen built a house of lumber, one of few in the Dehlin area. He had an enviable white-top buggy, a luxury rig with two seats, roll-down curtains to keep out the weather and a canvas roof. Hans Hansen died of the flu in 1918.

Dr. Aupperle, Idaho Falls, was summoned to Dehlin in hopes he could clean up the epidemic. He became ill himself.

Sorrow of another sort hit the Winthers, an early family. The Winthers children were left without a mother when smallpox killed her. Nels, the oldest boy tended his younger sib-

lings. Harold Winthers, a descendant, still farms the old homestead land.

In 1921, the Dehlin post office closed. Local mail then bore Ozone postmarks. The fields which previously yielded 48 bushels per acre, fell to 15 or 20 due to lack of water. Many were forced to leave.

Tex Creek Wildlife Management Area, administered under a cooperative effort of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Bureau of Reclamation and Bureau of Land Management, encompasses an area from the Blacktail Access of Ririe Reservoir south almost to Bone. Creeks winding through its boundaries include Willow, Tex, Chicken, Pipe, Bear, Trail, Indian, Cattle and Bull's Fork.

Dehlin (Photo by Patti Sherlock)



The area is a seasonal home for 2,000 elk, 3,000 mule deer and 50 moose. Sharptail grouse, sage grouse, ruffed grouse, blue grouse, Hungarian partridge and chukars, along with song birds and small mammals find a home there. The area was created to provide winter habitat for big game and upland game birds, plus give the public increased opportunities for hunting, fishing and trapping. But hikers, horseback riders, photographers and wild flower viewers can find visits to Tex Creek wildlife area rewarding. In spring, yellow violets, bluebells, balsam arrowroot, lavender phlox and lupine brighten the hillsides. Hikers can follow narrow animal paths to scenic hilltop overlooks. And Sunday drivers stand a good chance of spotting elk or deer.

Tex Creek is closed to motor vehicles from December 1 to April 15 to protect winter range. Snowmobile use is prohibited. Driving off established roads and firewood cutting also are prohibited.

Hardships

Settlers in southern Bonneville County paid a price for choosing to dwell in a beautiful mountain location. In emergencies, they were far from medical aid. Snows that swept down from the high country in early September blanketed cabins and corrals until late spring. Blizzards prevented homesteaders from replenishing supplies and isolated them from each other. Occasionally storms dumped so much snow that cabin dwellers had to dig tunnels in the snow to reach their livestock. Some schools observed summer schedules to make travel easier.

A number of hill dwellers returned to Idaho Falls, Ammon and Iona during the winter months. Those who remained in their mountain homes became experts at battling extreme cold, privation and

isolation.

Phillips Holmquist, Idaho Falls, recalled that in his childhood he was often unable to get to school in Ozone four miles away.

"Our winters seemed like one long blizzard. Some of the storms lasted a month," he said.

The Holmquists made the best of it. Holmquist's father used to cover a big snowdrift in a hollow near the house with wagon loads of straw. This would provide part of the summer's water supply to save hauling it from a mile away. The boys trailed jackrabbits through the snow and the plentiful rabbits made tasty meals.

Snow blindness was a concern. The condition caused travelers to become lost and confused and if they didn't find shelter in time, they froze to death. Cora Judy Elkington, a teacher at the Glenore School in 1931-32, once walked to the Ray Robison ranch in Long Valley. Her visit was a welcome one for Evelyn Robi-

Twass so good to be young then . . .

In the summer of 1929, Eva Bybee married Reed Stanger after a five-year courtship. Their first home was a sheep camp.

"It was so quiet on Sheep Mountain, except for the coyotes' howl and sheep blatting down the canyon," Mrs. Stanger recalled. Her new husband would awaken at sunrise and build up a fire in the sheep camp stove. A phonograph sat on a stump outside and Reed liked to put on a record first thing. His wife would wake up to a warming camp and soft music playing, "We'll build a sweet little nest, somewhere in the west, and let the rest of the world go by."

"We were so much in love," Eva remembered, "nothing seemed to matter. It was like one long picnic."

For several summers after he and Eva were married, Reed rode for the Long Valley Grazing Association. They left life in the sheep camp behind when they began to prove up on a 640-acre homestead. Their home then was a one-room cabin on a ridge overlooking Long Valley.

"We moved in Grandma Em's old Monarch range, a big brown leather couch that opened into a bed, a sturdy

oak table and four chairs." (Grandma Em was Emily Stanger, Reed's mother.)

Now the night sounds were more nettlesome. The cabin was elevated on logs, so wind whistled under the floor and animals, craving salt stored under the cabin, made nightly visits. Reed could sleep through the nuisance of porcupines gnawing at floor joists, but Eva couldn't. One night she woke him and cried that something needed to be done.

"All right, wife!" Reed responded. He jumped up, grabbed his rifle and slipped on his boots. Illuminated by moonlight, he stalked outside in his underwear, cowboy hat and boots. A shot echoed in the canyon. The gnawing stopped. Eva worried it might resume any minute, but the rest of the night was peaceful. In the morning the Stangers poked under the cabin with a long pole until they managed to push out a dead porcupine. Reed's one random shot had hit the porcupine dead center.

Many visitors came by the cabin on the ridge. Eva and Reed were herding sheep for several valley farms, in addition to Reed's employment with the Long Valley Grazing Association. Arme Whitehead and a man called only Cody,

also herded. Eva's younger sister, Marcella, (Mrs. Marcella Oswald of Idaho Falls) was a frequent visitor. She rode well enough to help herd and she also assisted with the cooking.

"No one ever came to Reed Stanger's home without being invited to get off his horse and have dinner," Eva said. "I kept a kettle of lamb stew on the range as well as homemade bread. It was a struggle for me to learn to make bread, but I had to have bread in the house. The nearest store, in Bone, was 35 miles away and it was 50 miles to Idaho Falls and the valley."

Grandma Em helped her daughter-in-law Eva master breadmaking when she came to Long Valley to cook for the sheep shearers. She taught Eva to reserve a cup of starter, add two tablespoons of sugar and fill up the two-quart jar with potato water. "No bread could have been better," Eva recalls. Eva learned to save drippings from bacon fat to flavor bread. Their Sunday treat, tomato cake, was made with bacon drippings. The cake became a favorite with the five Stanger children and even today is a sentimental choice for family get-togethers.

son, who hadn't seen a woman or left her home for three months. But when Cora got ready to leave, Roy insisted on painting black circles around her eyes using burnt cork to prevent snow blindness. She made the return trip without mishap.

Sudden blizzards also claimed lives. On a February day in 1917, Alva Beesley skied to Blackfoot. On his return trip he stayed at a friend's place on Cedar Creek, then started for home, a ranch on Mill Creek. A storm blew in. In May, after much of the snow had melted, friends found Alva, still on his skis, kneeling on one knee. Twelve feet of snow remained in the area where they found him.

Spring was a kinder time, yet swollen streams presented a hazard and people and animals drowned while trying to cross them. A near miss occurred when Michael Chewey tried to cross Mill Creek when it was high with snowmelt. Chewey, who lived at the foot of Pine Mountain, built a pair of stilts for the purpose of crossing the creek. He did fine on land, but when he tried them in the water, he found he couldn't balance on slippery rocks. He lost his hat, his fishing pole and nearly himself.

When summer arrived, so did mosquitoes. Pioneer Henrie Campbell reported mosquitoes so thick "the sky seemed overcast". Allan Thompson, who helped his father George run sheep in the area, recalled times when mosquitoes were so abundant and hungry the sheep dogs would refuse to work and instead would hide out in creeks to escape the insects.

Wild animals sometimes frightened settlers and harmed livestock. Edna Empey, a former hill dweller, remembered one of her family's favorite horses was killed by a wolf. Madge Jeffries, Idaho Falls, said her father once met a wolf on the trail. Her father moved rather than risk offending the wolf.

Syd and Norma Busenbark, who were married in 1918, once returned home at night from visiting a neighbor. Their horses refused to enter the barn and broke and ran away. When the Busenbarks investigated, they found a cougar lurking in the corner.

While not exactly a hardship, it was inconvenient to wake and find an animal

had stolen your false teeth. That's what happened to early-day sheepman John Seedall. One morning he found, in place of his teeth, a stick. A pack rat had made the trade. Seedall had a difficult time trailing the thief and retrieving his teeth.

A different sort of rat troubled some early settlers. A.J. Jordan journeyed up to his land in the spring and found a claim jumper had taken it over. For Jordan and others whose claims were jumped, it meant starting over on the arduous task of clearing the land and putting up shelter.

Living a long ways from medical help could be alarming. Victims of accidents or illness faced jolting trips to town in buggies or wagons. Some did not survive.

Gray's Lake homesteader Mark Robinson was cutting wood when his axe slipped and sliced through skin and bone and laid open the man's toes. It was January and snow was deep, but Robinson's brother Alex went by horseback for help. He found Olive Jones, the midwife at Glenore and the two struggled back to Robinson's cabin. Mrs. Jones sewed up the foot and it healed well.

Luella Loveland Ward and husband George lived at Ozone in 1917, then later moved to Dehlin. One summer, their children had severe whooping cough for 12 weeks. In *People of the Hills*, Mrs. Hill recalled, "when one whooped they all started and we had a 'whooping time' keeping them from choking."

When Mrs. Ward's baby Eldon was cutting teeth, he went into convulsions. "I picked him up," she told, "and started through the trees to Zella Sayers, my closest neighbor one-half mile away. I knew the baby wouldn't live until I got there. So I prayed, 'Heavenly Father tell me what to do.' A voice came to me clear. 'Go into the house and give him an enema.'" This I did. Eldon's body was stiff but as soon as the hot water hit his stomach, he came to. God answered my prayers many times."

A pleasant visit to a neighbor's turned into a harrowing experience for Ada Barzee. Mrs. Barzee had been visiting at the D. C. Campbell home on Badger Creek and was returning home with her young son Jimmy when something frightened her usually dependable horse. The horse spooked and ran, throwing

Mrs. Barzee. She fell into the singletree — the crossbar that held the buggy and horse together. Jimmy Barzee, a crippled boy, tried to help his mother. He, too, was thrown and the buggy ran over his neck.

As the scared horse continued to thunder toward home, large rocks scalped the unfortunate Mrs. Barzee and mutilated her ears. When she finally managed to get loose, her scalp hung over her shoulder. She covered her head with her apron and began to walk for help.

A man on horseback offered to help. Mrs. Barzee refused his help: she wanted him to attend to her son. After she knew Jimmy was taken care of, she allowed neighbors to drive her to the office of Dr. Fuller in Idaho Falls.

Mrs. Barzee recovered completely, though she bore prominent scars and a deformed right ear. She was president of the Ozone Relief Society and she chose to walk the three miles to meetings. She never surrendered her love of dancing and even after two strokes, cut a fine figure on the dance floor. Mrs. Barzee died in 1937, at age 81.

Miranda Stringham, author and historian, recounts in her book, *People of the Hills*, the hardships, difficulties and dreams of these past homesteaders. Ludwig and Carrie Frank were among the first homesteaders on Bull's Fork, and in Stringham's book, their daughter Irene remembered their first year in the hills.

"In 1914, I was nearly five years old. I remember hearing the words Blackfoot and 'Land Office' during the summer. My parents were getting ready to make a big move from Elsinore, Utah to Idaho. I remember the gallons of peach and plum jam my mother prepared. She put the jam in wooden candy buckets, lined with wax paper and nailed the lids tightly in place.

"Armed with Epsom salts, castor oil, and courage, they ventured forth about the first of November to homestead a hundred and sixty acres with the Bull's Fork running right through the middle. By some magic, there was our little half-roofed cabin, built of the biggest, straightest aspen out of our very own grove, chinked with mud and with a little window facing the sunrise.

"I don't recall who hauled us and our

belongings to our little place, for Father didn't have a horse, dog, gun or even a pair of overshoes. But I do remember the axe and shovel, for he took his axe out to the grove to cut wood. He chopped the ice out of the water hole and when the snows and blizzards came, he shoveled a tunnel to the creek.

"Our nearest neighbor down the creek about three miles were George Fagelson, a widower, his two young sons, Conrad and Otto, and his young daughter, Lizzy, who later married Stanley Dehlin.

"Sometime during January, Father awakened us by saying 'Listen, it's a Chinook wind, I can hear the water dripping. For a few days it was warm. The melting snow packed heavy, then came the big freeze. The fruit Mother bottled was solid. The potatoes were like rocks and the cold penetrated in and around us until Mother hung quilts on the walls around our beds and Father kept the fire going all night. By then our commodities were getting low, so Father, one bright morning, wrapped his feet in burlap sacks and set out for Ozone ten miles away.

"It was long after dark when Father stumbled to the door. With tears streaming down his cheeks, he told us about his experience. He made it to Nephi Otteson's store in Ozone in good time, collected Mother's magazine and letters from down home, purchased the necessities and a bag of hard candy for the kids. He tied everything in a flour sack and started for home.

"The snow was so packed and frozen it made walking easy. Several times he walked so close to coyotes he could have touched them. They just gave him a curious look and trotted away. He had gone several miles when he felt that things were not right with him. He was losing his direction. He realized he was snow-blind. He knew that he didn't have much farther to go, but having lost his sense of direction he walked until it became dark and bitter cold.

"I don't recall that Father said so, but he was a humble man and I'm sure that he asked for Divine help. Hours after he felt he couldn't go further, his vision cleared some and he could see two buttes. He recognized them as the Horse

Buttes. From them he got his direction. His eyes were bloodshot and painful for days.

"One evening my mother opened the door to empty her dishpan. The lamp lights fell on a big black paw reaching toward her. She dropped the pan and turned to slam the door shut, when a soft southern voice said, 'Good evening.' This was our introduction to John Snow and brother-in-law Charley Mugelston. They had come dressed in bearskin coats and mitts to look at their homestead land.

"Spring finally filled the air with sage perfume. Gulleys were rushing streams and the pretty little Bull's Fork was roaring full of muddy water. The moment a piece of land was bare, Father began to grub the sage. From dawn 'til dark he worked piling it high. He set it afire after dark and I can still see those big bonfires lighting up the hills.

"Father broadcast his grain, then harrowed it into the soil. Having finished his spring work, he set off for the valley to work for Utah-Idaho Sugar Company. Mother and we children did the homesteading. Father earned enough money for a team, a wagon, a hand plow and a harrow.

"I don't recall who threshed Father's first crop of grain, but I can still see him reaching his hands into a sack and letting the golden kernels run through his fingers. A load of it was taken into the valley where our winter flour, other commodities and clothing were purchased.

"November was here again. Looking down the creek, between us and the Fagelsons, we could see the smoke curling from the Snow and Mugelston homes.

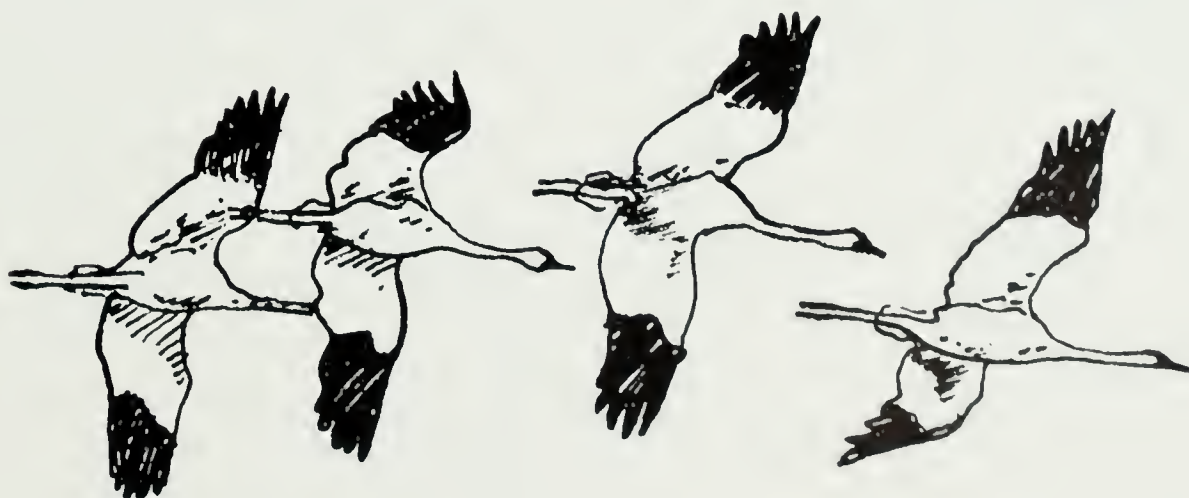
Looking up the creek was the Arthur Davidson cabin.

"Yes, it was going to be a wonderful place to live. 'Just think, Carrie,' Father would say with pride to my mother, 'Some day a railroad will be up here.' Thus passed the first year of Father's dream."

Gray's Lake

Gray's Lake, a 40,000 acre marshland on the southern edge of Bonneville County has played a number of roles during the century of white settlement. Trappers seeking beaver visited there. Horse-drawn freighters loaded with salt and wagons carrying homesteaders followed a portion of the Oregon Trail on the lake's western side. In 1870, Gray's became neighbor to a gold rush. Later, great herds of cattle and sheep en route to grazing land, diverted Gray's water for irrigation. In recent years, the federal government designated Gray's Lake as a refuge for waterfowl. Currently, wildlife scientists are working to establish the endangered whooping crane in Gray's marshes.

According to Edith Lovell in her *Captain Bonneville's County*, the lake was named for John Gray, a colorful Scottish-Iriquois trapper and mountain man who plied his trade in the Snake River Valley in the 1820's and 1830's. Some of his contemporaries described him as spirited, brave enough to vanquish grizzlies and a top-notch fiddler and dancer. His bosses at the Hudson Bay Company however, saw him as a "plotting busybody", a "turbulent blackguard", and a "damned rascal".



Perhaps, Gray, whose father was an American Revolutionary soldier, couldn't be faulted for wanting to cast off the British fur company's oppressive yoke. That Gray sought to incite other employees who were enslaved by debt to the company confirmed the company's impression of him as a troublemaker, but made him a leader to other American trappers.

Lovell, in *SNAKE RIVER ECHOES* states that Gray was born in 1795 at St. Regis, New York, to William Gray and his Iriquois wife. Gray's Iriquois name was Ignace Hatchioraquasna. Later Gray married an Iriquois woman, Marianne Naketiehou, and came west with her in the 1920's. During their years in the mountains, the couple had nine children.

The Hudson Bay Company hired Gray and other Iriquois to teach native western Indians how to set beaver traps. Another famous Iriquois, Pierre Tavanitagon, worked alongside Gray.

On one Hudson Bay expedition, Gray's brigade leader gave him credit for inspiring a large trapping party to dig

out a snow blocked pass. Gray played tunes on his fiddle to encourage them.

But when Gray's group intersected with a group of American trappers, Gray happily defected and took half the Hudson Bay party with him.

Fellow trapper Warren Ferris wrote that Gray "fought several duels with grizzly bears, in which he has thus far been victorious, though generally at the expense of a gun, which he usually manages to break in the conflict." Gray also survived an attack by Blackfeet Indians in which his companion was killed.

Gray left the mountains in 1835, but he, his wife, and a one-year-old daughter accompanied Father DeSmet when DeSmet was traveling to the Bitterroot Valley to build St. Mary's mission. DeSmet recorded that Gray had found the best place to ford the Platte and also mediated with a band of angry Cheyenne.

Gray died in Kansas before 1845, at about age 50. One account said he was killed.

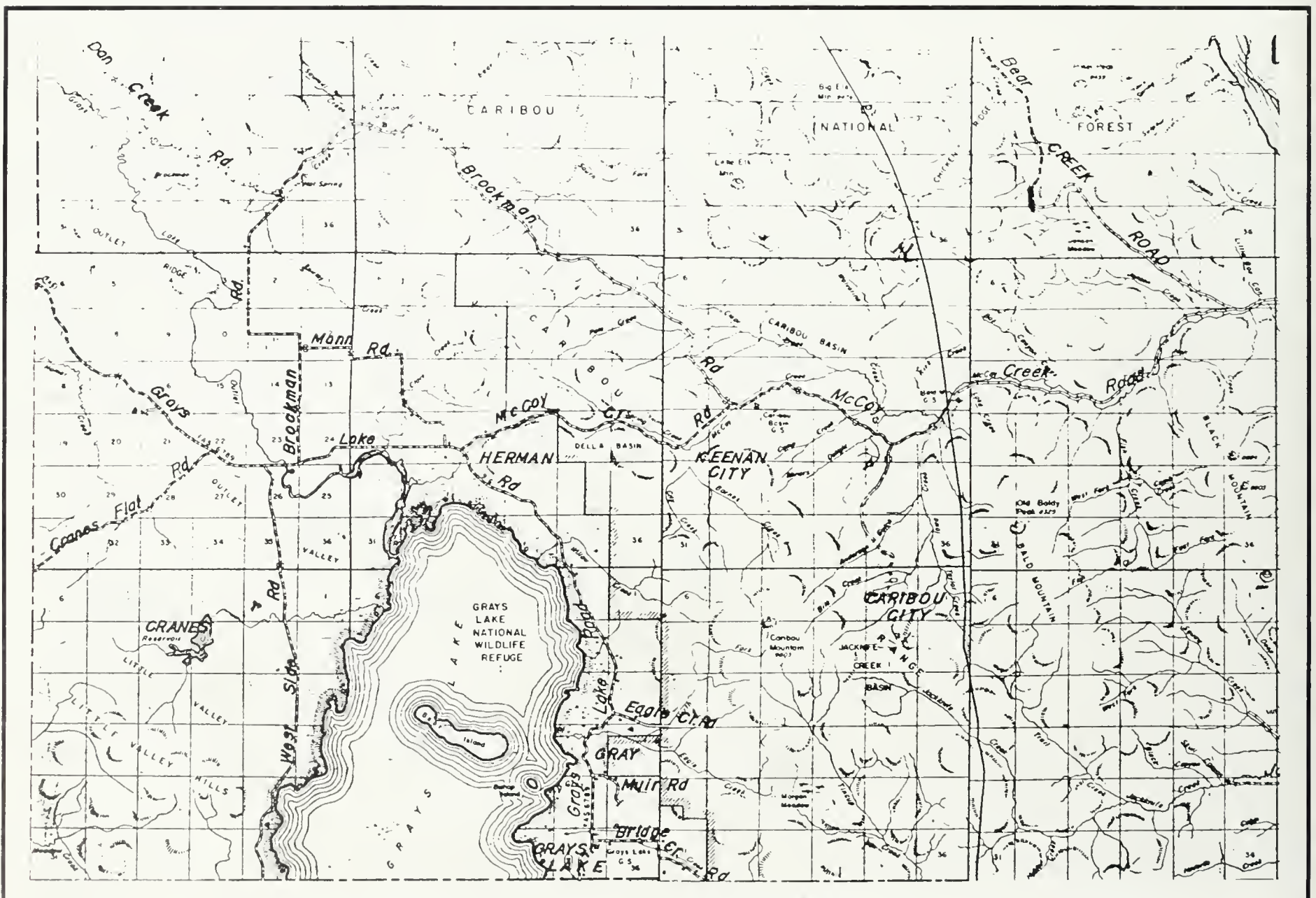
When demand for beaver pelts evapo-

rated, the trapper era died. But in subsequent years, thousands of emigrants seeking land in the west moved past Gray's while traveling the Lander Trail. Lander Trail was a portion of the Oregon Trail that passed through what is now Bonneville County on its southern boundary, west of Gray's Lake.

Lovell stated that early Mormon settlers helped construct the Lander Trail. In those days, that meant cutting heavy timber and moving boulders. The road is named for F. W. Lander who supervised its construction.

The trail became known as the "Old Salt Road" when freighters loaded with salt from Stump Creek, a tributary of Wyoming's Salt River, moved en route to Montana, the Boise Basin, and to a lesser extent, Washington and Oregon.

In 1870, gold was discovered in the mountains east of Gray's. Boom towns like Caribou and Keenan Cities and Iowa Bar sprang up. (Some researchers are not certain they were separate towns; they claim one city may have been called by various names.) For about 15 years,



the slopes above Gray's resounded with placer and hard rock mining, building construction and commerce.

By century's end, gold fever subsided and quieter settlement was underway. On February 23, 1896, Gray's Latter Day Saints branch was organized with Albert Dewey as presiding elder. George Muir was named bishop when the branch became a ward in August of that year.

By the time A.E. (Gene) Briggs arrived in 1924, on his first assignment as a Forest Ranger, Gray's was the center for a thriving livestock industry. In his *Memoirs of a U.S. Forest Ranger*, Briggs reported that approximately 80,000 sheep entered the Gray's lake district en route to allotments on that district or other districts to the east. An unspecified number of cattle also grazed

separate allotments. Ranger Briggs' first official assignment was to settle a trespass dispute between cattle owners and a sheepman.

Briggs started at a salary of \$121.67 per month. He was required to furnish a saddle horse, a pack horse, a riding saddle and a camp bed.

Jim and Gladys Muir were the proprietors of the country store and post office where ranchers and farmers gathered to trade news around the potbellied stove. The mail route, between the valley and Soda Springs, approximately 44 miles, required deliveries three times a week. In winter, when snow obliterated the road, mail went by horse-drawn sled. Briggs came to admire the snow-wise ponies who could somehow distinguish between packed and unpacked snow and seldom took a misstep off the narrow

trail into deep loose snow.

The homemade sled, enclosed in canvas or plywood, often carried two or three passengers as well as four mail bags, a cream can, kerosene heating stove, and the driver. Once Briggs' wife, Hiley, became critically ill and had to be transported to Soda Springs in the mail vehicle. Old Doc Kackley, a veteran Army doctor, expressed surprise that she had survived the ordeal.

Briggs brought the first radio set into Gray's Lake Valley. It operated on batteries, as there was no electricity in the valley, and attracted to the Briggs' home neighbors like Gus and Della Wakeman.

Looking east across Gray's Lake Outlet in summer 1989 (Photo by Quincy Jensen)



Old Nels Fallentine, a bachelor rancher who had a reputation as a recluse, was coaxed out of his solitude by the radio programs.

Briggs liked his job and the valley people, but hated the bumper crop of mosquitoes and stinging deer flies and found the six-month winter somewhat tiring.

One of Briggs' helpers was Siki, a saddle and pack horse who could untie a rope as fast as a man could. The horse could also open any door or gate, except those padlocked. One day Briggs found Siki in the second floor of the barn, eating hay. When Briggs entered the barn, Siki simply backed down the stairs.

Once Briggs became mired in the mud with Siki and another horse. He managed to free the horses using a method he'd seen livestockmen use. He looped one end of the rope around the horse's neck, made two wraps on a sturdy tree with the other end and pulled hard. Once on its side, a horse could slide himself to firm ground.

With so many sheep to register, Briggs learned to count them in pairs. Some old timers claimed they could count by four, five and eight. Some rangers used a small hand-held device that registered sheep by the hundred. Sheep herders called the devices "tally whackers", the government listed them as "tally registers". Other men used small rocks or stove matches and placed one in a pocket or opposite hand when 100 was reached. Still others notched a piece of wood.

During his time at Gray's, Briggs observed and lamented a decline in wildlife. Gray's once produced a great number of muskrats. Trappers harvested and sold thousands of dollars worth of furs each year. But in 1922, a disease had invaded the colonies and diminished their numbers to a point where trapping was no longer profitable. Briggs blamed **the practice of placing poisoned bait, meant for coyotes, for the deaths of many upland birds, game birds, fur-bearing animals and family dogs, including his collie, Rover.** When Briggs visited Caribou Basin in the 1940's, **sage grouse had disappeared** from the area, as **had the Franklin Grouse, Buffed Grouse and the Sharp-Tailed Grouse.** He **blamed their disappearance** on poaching, hunting **pressure** and perhaps live-

stock grazing abuse.

Briggs' book mentions these valley residents:

— George Muir, president of the Bridge Creek Cattle Association and bishop of the Gray's Lake Ward.

— Sheepman Sam Sibbett. He was the son of pioneer settlers Mam and Pap Sibbett. The Sibbetts had been known for their big-heartedness. They dispensed aid, comfort and sound advice. Mam had served as a midwife in the community and though Pap had died years before, she was still living independently in her mid-eighties.

Sam, one of several children, was a big, ruddy-faced man who had a famous "husky voice". People in Soda Springs joked that they knew Sam was coming to town, for they could hear him speak in Henry, 18 miles away. Sam Sibbett and Ranger Briggs got off to a shaky start due to a trespass complaint against Sam. But Sibbett came to appreciate Briggs' fairness and periodically dropped off a leg of lamb at the ranger's home. Briggs insisted he could not accept gifts, it was against regulations. But Sam explained, "The lamb is not for you. I wouldn't give you anything. It's for your fine wife and daughter, to help compensate for the hard time they're having with you. I have told them to see to it you don't get any lamb to eat."

— Earl Sanford, known as Sandy, was Supervisor of the Caribou National Forest. Briggs saw him as a well-educated man who didn't let his education put him on a pedestal. Sandy had limitless endurance and did his share of tough jobs. Briggs credited him with building many foresters into good citizens and good rangers.

— Al Christensen, or Beany, was known as the most capable shepherd on the range. Briggs found him a solitary eccentric, but many of the herders were cranky lone wolves. Beany could not get along with camp tenders and others, but he was much in demand among sheep owners because of his fine work. He was an excellent camp cook and kept his camp immaculate and orderly.

— George Neilsen, a farmer turned stockman, once hired Beany but may have regretted it. Neilsen once knocked on Briggs door at 3:00 a.m. seeking shelter. Neilsen had incurred Beany's fury

and had been afraid to spend the night at his camp. Neilsen, inexperienced at packing, had botched the job and arrived at Beany's camp with sour dough and syrup spilled over everything.

— Bert Cummrlh was a sheepman who grazed 3,600 sheep in three bands on Clear Creek, a tributary of McCoy Creek. Briggs believed that he had evidence that Cummrlh "snoudged" or sneaked forage from adjoining allotments. Briggs later learned from a Fort Hall ranger that Cummrlh had been known to fill Indians with food and drink and then allow his sheep to trespass on reservation land.

— Charley Spackman, known as Spike, was appointed district ranger on the Caribou National Forest shortly after it was created in 1906. He was an excellent horseman, skillful roper and knew how to take care of himself in the mountains. He talked stockmen's language. He suffered from a physical handicap which prevented him from walking any distance. When he was young, his left leg had been broken, rumor said, while he and young companions were "moving horses without permission". He did not seek medical attention, afraid it would arouse suspicion. The leg healed with a bow in it.

Spike patrolled the Merman-McCoy sheep driveway, a trail over which many of the 80,000 sheep traveled to reach their high country allotments.

A diversion ditch that sent Gray's Lake water to nearby pasture ensured permanent settlement. Today, the Gray's Lake area tries to accommodate grazing and crops, while striving to preserve the marshlands as a haven for waterfowl and other birds.

Diverting water for irrigation caused a lowering of Gray's Lake water and degradation of wildlife habitat. So in 1965, the federal government established Gray's Lake Refuge to protect and restore habitat for nesting wildlife.

Greater sandhill cranes were of particular interest because Gray's hosts the largest nesting population in the world. More than 200 pairs return to the refuge

Near Gray's Lake, Oscar Apelo y Hidalgo, a Peruvian shepherd works for Jim Mays of Howe. (Photo by Patti Sherlock)



in early April. In fall, Gray's is also a staging area where cranes gather before migrating south to New Mexico, Arizona and Mexico for winter. In late September and early October, clouds of sandhills darken skies near the refuge and their raucous cries fill the air. More than 3,000 cranes can be found in the valley at this time.

Gray's Refuge gained recent attention through its participation in a joint U.S.-Canadian effort to reestablish the endangered Whooping Crane. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service and the Canadian Wildlife Service sought to develop a second wild flock of whoopers, in case disease or hurricane hit the main group. Plus, they hoped a second flock could be placed on a shorter migration route. The surviving flock, down to 16 birds in 1941 and numbering only about 100 in 1975, migrated from Wood Buffalo National Park in Northwest Territories, Canada, to Aransas National Wildlife Refuge, Texas, a distance of 2,500 miles.

In 1975, waterfowl specialists decided to place whooping crane eggs in sandhill

nests. Whooper females usually lay two eggs, but hatch and raise only one. So Canadian and American scientists took "extra" eggs from Canadian and captive birds at the Patuxent Wildlife Research Center in Maryland and transplanted them to sandhill nests at Gray's Lake.

The sandhills cooperated. They hatched and raised their foster young, then taught them a shorter migration route — Gray's Refuge to Bosque del Apache Refuge in new Mexico, an 850 mile trip. En route, sandhill flocks stop for weeks in two Colorado refuges where grain fields provide abundant feed. At present, about 30 whoopers are migrating with the sandhills.

At birth, newly hatched sandhills and Whooping Cranes closely resembled each other. But when they grow up, differences are apparent. The sandhill is gray, with dark wingtips and has a patch of naked red skin above its eye and around the crown of its head. It has a five-foot wingspan. The Whooping Crane stands nearly five feet tall, has a snow white body and black wingtips and

a red and black head with a long pointed beak. Its wingspan is 7 1/2 feet across. In flight both sandhills and whoopers stretch out their long necks and flap with a slow wingbeat.

On summer days, tourists from Switzerland, France and other far-off places gather at Gray's hoping to see a whooper, one of the 150 extant. An observation telescope and platform rests on a hill beside the visitors' center.

A midwestern schoolteacher is an example of how deep is the devotion to whoopers. Wearing a billed cap lettered with "International Crane Society", the dainty lady lives out of her pickup in the summer and helps employees and visitors spot cranes. She scans the marshland for the right bird, spots one and cries, "That's it!"

But it is too early to call the Whooping Crane rehabilitation program at Gray's a success. Though the summers of the late 70's produced several fledgling whoopers, recent summers have brought forth no new birds. Dry years, culminating in the record drought of 1988, were



destructive for habitat at Gray's and left cranes exposed to predators.

Then, too, no matings have occurred between Gray's Lake whoopers. Whoopers have an elaborate courtship ritual consisting of loud calling, flapping and great leaps. The ritual forges strong bonding and whoopers mate for life. Scientists had hoped the courtship ritual was instinctive but how they worry it may be a learned behavior for young whoopers and must be taught by their parents. To further complicate the problem, males have shown a tendency to separate themselves from the main flock, perhaps an instinctive protection against inbreeding.

Still, scientists remain hopeful matings may yet take place in the Gray's flock. In June 1989, researchers decided to stop bringing in eggs and will concen-

trate on promoting bonding in existing pairs. When that happens fanciers of the magnificent Whooping Crane, which is unique to North America, may breathe easier about the continuation of the species.

Outside of Idaho, Gray's Lake National Wildlife Refuge may be best known for its participation in the program to rehabilitate endangered Whooping Cranes and for its summer population of sandhill cranes.

But local bird lovers know Gray's has many other winged species to offer. Waterfowl fanciers can observe not only the birds listed on page 44, but also Tundra Swans, Hooded and Common Mergansers, Northern Shovelers, Eared and Pie-Billed Grebes. Ibises and bitterns move in Gray's marshes and the cries of loons float to the ridges.

Overhead, a bald or golden eagle flies past. Ospreys are rare; hawks in several varieties are common. Owls, doves, gulls, kestrels, snipes, stilts, plovers, grouse and partridges are at home at Gray's. In addition, varieties of hummingbirds, woodpeckers, waxwings, chickadees, swallows, larks and sparrows of numerous kinds nest, sing and feed at Gray's. In autumn, duck and geese hunters swarm to the refuge.

In summer, hikers on the surrounding hills encounter badger, skunk, chipmunk and ground squirrels, and at night listen to the song of coyotes. Sheep herders who tend flocks east of the lake report incidents with bears. In winter, a portion of the refuge is open to cross-country skiing and skiers leave their tracks next to those of moose, elk and deer and an occasional big cat.



Old Herman Store, foreground; Gray's Lake, background (Photo courtesy Bob Collins) Mary Grimes points out Gray's Lake lily pads to father George. (Photo by Patti Sherlock)

Hugh Whitney, Outlaw

From the time he was a kid, Hugh Whitney rode as a cowboy and sheepherder in the hills behind Bone. When he turned bad, he cut a trail of fear through southeastern Idaho.

Phillip Holmquist, Idaho Falls, was "only a yearling" in 1912 when Whitney's rampage occurred, but he heard the story retold often as he grew up.

Young Whitney, the tale goes, spent his wages on bullets for his six-gun and practiced quick draw and target shooting every day. But he never showed any gunman inclinations until the time he clashed with a Montana saloon keeper.

Following a custom of the time, Whitney had turned over his wages to the barkeeper for safekeeping while he went on a drinking spree. Bartenders often held money for cowboys and returned it to them only after they sobered up — to prevent them from blowing all their earnings in one misadventure.

When Whitney returned to the saloon and asked for his money, the bartender denied Whitney ever gave him any. Whitney, wild with anger, shot up the town. Holmquist wasn't sure whether anyone was hurt in that first episode. But the law did apprehend Whitney, handcuff him and put him on a passen-

ger train bound for Idaho Falls.

In Beaver Canyon, the train slowed for a steep grade. Whitney grabbed the gun off the hip of a conductor, shot and killed him and dove through the train window to escape.

Whitney next appeared at a blacksmith's shop in Spencer, Idaho, where he ordered the blacksmith to cut off his handcuffs. Free again, he found a horse to steal and rode out of town.

Word reached southeast Idaho Whitney was coming. At the bridge over the Snake River by Menan, a man with a shotgun met Whitney and ordered him to halt. Whitney drew his gun and shot three fingers off the man, one being the man's trigger finger.

By now, everyone was scared. The hill dwellers from Whitney's home territory went into hiding.

And that is where Whitney showed up next. At a home near Kepp's Crossing on Willow Creek, Whitney knocked on the door, introduced himself and asked for a meal. After the frightened farmers fed him, Whitney paid for his meal and told his hosts, "You tell the posse where you saw me. I'm going to be a long ways ahead of them."

When his horse was spent, Whitney

came upon a sheepherder and tried to trade horses with him. The sheepherder refused. Whitney shot the sheepherder off his mount, killing him, and fled on the fresh horse.

At a cow camp south of Bone, Wood Skinner and other wranglers were bragging about how they could fix Whitney if he showed up in their territory. Suddenly the door swung open and Whitney stood before them. The cowboys dropped their guns and turned white.

Whitney told Skinner, an old friend, "Wood, get me the best horse you've got." Skinner put Whitney's saddle onto the outfits' best horse and Whitney galloped off. That was the last anyone in the area ever saw of Whitney. But a month later, the horse returned to the cow camp. It was jaded and useless but the money to pay for it was tied under its mane.

People figured Whitney made it to Cokeville, on the Idaho-Wyoming border, where he had relatives. Within a short time, Whitney's Cokeville relatives left town, some thought to link up with Whitney. Whitney was never caught. One rumor had him settling in South America.

Pioneer Women

Creeks and mountains bear the names of men who pioneered Bonneville County. Often forgotten is the crucial role played by women in settling the area. Books recount tales of physical prowess — exploring rugged terrain, building roads and digging canals, but seldom tell of the day-to-day hardships and painful loneliness homesteading women endured.

In the county's southern region, women bore children without help, contended with wild animals and fought their way through paralyzing blizzards. They cooked for harvesting crews and hired men, and took in boarders and relatives. The homes they stretched to accommodate more people were often one or two-room cabins.

Madge Jeffries, Idaho Falls, said her

mother Cora Mae Squires, was a city girl when she married young farmer/rancher Arthur James (A.J.) Jordan. A.J. had been born in 1892 at Willow Creek to early settlers James and Anna Jordan and had learned young that life in the hills could be rough. As a boy he herded sheep on Antelope Flats where wild cowboys sometimes came by to lasso sheep, scatter the herd and terrify the herder.

A.J. and Cora's homestead on Hell Creek could be reached by buckboard. But to get around the ranch, Cora needed to travel by horseback. She rode in a riding skirt and led a pack animal loaded with her babies — Marge, age 4, in one pouch of the pack saddle and Madge, six-months old, in the other.

At night, the howl of wolves outside the cabin frightened Cora. A.J. complained the wolves were "gally" and that they were killing horses and cattle.

"An old Mexican and his son came up to the hills," Mrs. Jeffries recalled. "He trapped wolves and took out loads of hides. He never would tell the secret of how he managed to trap them, but he cleaned out the area and everyone was grateful."

In *People of the Hills*, Brenda Ockerman remembered the strength of her pioneer grandmother, Carrie Butler.

"My grandmother and grandfather homesteaded a place near Bone in 1910. They were one of the ten first settlers . . .

"Without any conveniences . . . she bore a large family (fifteen in all) without the help of a physician . . . on one occasion in the . . . isolation of winter, without even a neighbor woman to assist.

"There was not any work on the homestead she could not do. She milked the cows, fixed the fence and got out the winter's wood. She rode horseback and handled the team. She also carried water



Madame George (Photo courtesy Clyde Andersen)

in buckets to do her family's wash.

"At one time she had a family of thirteen living in a three-roomed house. The older ones would complain and she would say, 'Don't complain, sometime we will have things better.'"

Having a large number of children was not unusual, and bearing them in spartan conditions wasn't either. Olive Stringham Jones was a busy capable midwife, who traveled in any kind of weather, stayed with her patient as many days as necessary and charged a modest fee; however, storms sometimes prevented her arrival.

Some women moved to Idaho Falls in late pregnancy to live with relatives and to be near a doctor. Some stayed at home until labor began and then travelled to Hyatt's Maternity Home in Ammon. Mrs. Annie Hyatt kept women at her home for ten days of confinement.

Then, as now, things were not always what they seemed to be. Mother George, sometimes called Madame George, was a nurse, unofficial doctor and also rancher. The mountain settlers depended on Mother to midwife many home births.

When Mother George died and was



Effie Allsop Greene 1889-1978

Two residents of Richmond, Utah, Tom Allsop and Sylvia Peart, were married in 1888 and went to Gray's Lake, Idaho to live. They spent a long, cold winter there, "snowed-in" a good portion of the time. On June 14, 1889, their first child, Effie was born. Thomas engaged the services of a mid-wife named Madame George to deliver the baby and care for his wife and child. Effie was a tiny baby, but the mid-wife seemed to give excellent care. Sylvia told Effie, some years later, that her nurse had been a "negro mammy" who wore men's shoes and had the biggest hands she had ever seen on a woman. (Information and photo courtesy of Lee G. Cantwell)

being reading for burial, a rumored secret came to light. She was purportedly a man. That would explain her hands, into which homesteading mothers had placed themselves. Mother George's hands were famous for being large and capable.

Arlo Everett Barzee, said to be the first child born at Ozone, in 1912, was born in a tent where his parents were living. Everyone was away at a celebration at the Jim Jorgensen sawmill, and expectant father Clark Barzee called on George Kindick, a bachelor, to get help. Barbra Barzee bore the child without complications.

A 13-pound girl, Lael Stolworthy, was born forty miles from a hospital to Mrs.

Ed Stolworthy at Brockman Creek. Midwife Olive Jones was brought from Glenmore to help the suffering mother. Mr. and Mrs. Ralph Butler had 13 children and most of them were born at their ranch near Deer Creek. Minerva Campbell, Ozone, wife of David, had her 13th baby unassisted while her husband went for help. Ada Campbell delivered her baby girl, Grace, only minutes after arriving at her mother's home in Ammon. Snow reached the horses' bellies and the expectant father had to break trail all the way to town. The couple fretted the baby would be born on the way.

Snow was over the fenceposts the day Miranda Stringham gave birth to daughter Floreine. Floreine came so fast she was born in the rocking chair. Only thirty minutes later, a sleigh load of men dropped in to warm up.

Leda Jones remembered a night when a pack of wolves moved in close to their two-room cabin and threatened their only source of income, a pen of young pigs. Leda's mother awoke her five-year-old son Burdette, to show him how to load the double-barrel shotgun. She went to a corner of the house, rested the

gun on logs, and fired three shots into the pack. The gunfire frightened the wolves, but they moved only a distance away and kept the family awake all night with their howling. Next day, Leda's mother found huge paw prints near the cabin. One big wolf had chased the family dog under the house.

A gray wolf trapped Lydia Caldwell and her children in their cabin for two days while Lydia's husband Tom was away. When the dogs quit barking, Lydia would know the wolf had gone over the hill so she would dash to the barn and feed the stock and milk the cow. When the dogs began to bark, she knew the wolf was returning.

Caroline Hansen once took a team of horses to plow through the deep snow to get supplies. The year was 1887. Her husband Enoch stayed at camp at Dan Creek to care for his family and livestock. After eight days, Enoch had given his wife up for lost when she returned with the badly needed supplies. She'd managed to get the merchandise on credit because she had no money.

Mrs. Hansen, whose husband ran sheep, was a sturdy person who could

shear sheep "as good as a man" and she was also a skilled hunter.

After helping her husband clear sagebrush and plant a crop, a pioneer woman might have to defend her field from intruding livestock. Bands of sheep and herds of cattle sometimes wandered onto growing fields. Some early-day livestockmen resented the Homestead Act and its impact on their free grazing. They nudged their herds towards farms and easy forage.

Ella Holmquist, Idaho Falls, remembers how she and her mother had to chase sheep out of grain fields. Two-barb wire fence did little to keep the sheep out, and the animals would graze a 100-yard swath on either side of the field. After the flocks departed, Ella's mother had the children gather wool off the barbed wire to be carded and washed and used in quilts.

Homesteader Carrie Frank's husband Ludwig was away from home on a day when cowboys moved a herd of cattle in to graze along the Bull's Fork. When Carrie awoke the entire herd was in her grain field. She lifted the children onto the lower end of the cabin roof and ordered them to stay there so the big bulls couldn't hurt them. Then she ran at the animals, threatening them with her apron and yelling at the top of her lungs. The herd stampeded away.

During that same summer, Carrie came upon her children squatting in a circle and studying a fascinating worm that had a noisemaker on its tail. Recognizing it as a rattler, the mother grabbed an aspen limb and beat the snake until she was exhausted and it was quite dead. She stewed for the rest of the summer because a neighbor warned her the snake's mate might be lurking nearby.

When women filed for homesteads, they were usually enlarging parcels for fathers and brothers. But a few women came west alone and proved up on homesteads in the southern region of Bonneville County. The women married local men or, defeated by the hardships of pioneer life, sold their holdings and moved away.

It was difficult for women to hold outside jobs in addition to raising families and crops, but some did. Etta Molen's husband Ernest had a bad heart. The family lived in a one-room home at Last Chance. Etta drove a great distance selling household products. When night came, she stayed at the home of a customer, then was off again early in the morning.

In *People of the Hills*, Miranda Stringham recorded Leda Sayer Jones written tribute to her mother, Luzella Morgan Sayer. The Sayers homesteaded on Willow Creek and Sayers Creek and endured raging thunderstorms, snows that reached the cabin roof and wolves roaming in packs. Leda remembered with affection her mother's management of a large family in "Her Only Jewels".

She never wanted diamonds bright,
nor fancy, frilly clothes.

She never owned a costly home, she
had no time for those.

She never took a world wide tour, nor
got to ride a plane.

Her trips were mostly just to town.

Then back to the hills again,
To be with her jewels.

She had no time for women's clubs,
she spent her time in cookin'

Vacations were unknown to her, she
was too busy lookin'

For tears upon some upturned face,
from a torn or broken finger,

She'd kiss away each tiny tear 'til not
a trace would linger,

On her jewels.

She asked too little out of life, just
simple, lowly things

Like bandaging a small bruised knee
Or tying apron strings.

Just combing seven small girls' curls
or washing five boys' faces,

Or keeping filled the cooky jar and
tying all those laces

Of her jewels.

She always prayed that she might be
a kind and loving wife

That Dad might find contentment at
the end of each day's strife.

That hand in hand together they
could weather all life's trials,

Be ever true and faithful with ever
ready smiles

For their jewels.

God grant that we may strive to be as
pure and sweet as she

As prone to lend a helping hand
where e're the need might be.

And when the Master calls the role as
our earthly mission's o'er

May we take to her an unstained soul
and dwell with her for ever more,

Still yet her jewels.

Her eldest daughter took charge of things at home and also cared for the ailing father. When Ernest died in 1914, the family left the hills.

Lenore Otteson became post mistress of the Hillsdale community appointed by President Woodrow Wilson. At the same time the settlement became officially Ozone.

Olive Stringham Jones, mentioned so often in personal histories as the woman who saved the day by midwifing babies or sewing up wounds, maintained an outside business, too. She and her daughter-in-law milked a dairy herd, separated the milk and made hundreds of pounds of butter to sell to stockmen and ranchers in the hills. She also cooked for stockmen moving herds. All this she juggled around raising three children and three stepchildren.

Caribou

There are times on hot summer days in Caribou Basin when the air becomes suddenly still and cool. And then, some say, an eerie shrieking noise can be heard over the valley. Those who don't believe in ghosts say it's the sound of range ewes calling their lambs and you can hear them better when the wind dies. But those who do believe in ghosts say it's the laughter of long-dead Chinese laborers, wreaking revenge in Hell on the greedy men who tormented them in this life. Others say no, it's the land itself, crying in pain, remembering how miners with no affection for the mountain and no connection to its future, scraped back its skin and gouged its insides in a frenzied search for gold.

Whether or not ghosts haunt its hills



A PLACE TO LISTEN — No sound disturbs the hum of insects and whisper of grass on a summer day in southeastern Bonneville County. This area grows grain and livestock, yet retains a wild emptiness unchanged since settlers arrived 100 years ago. (Photo by Bob Schweiger)

ALL THAT GLITTERS — Looking east from the Caribou Basin Road, visitors get a striking view of undulating mountains. Goldrush miners of the 1870's who rested their teams here may have found treasure better than gold. (Photo by Doug Johnson)

the Caribou area lives with a rebuke from its past. Hillsides stripped of vegetation a century ago remain naked. Ground that previously grew forest to shelter animals, lost its soil to hydraulic mining and still refuses to raise even sparse grass. Piles of overturned earth even today linger as scabs on the mountain.

Word of gold in the southeastern Idaho mountains began to spread in 1869. Various men are credited with discovering the Caribou wealth. George Chapin, an unnamed black cook from the salt works on Stump Creek, F. McCoy, F.S. Babcock, and Jess Fairchilds (nicknamed "Caribou Fairchilds" because of his tales of the gold rush in the Caribou Range of British Columbia), all are variously identified as men who started the rush to southeastern Idaho. Sources agree it was Fairchilds who gave the area its name. (Fairchilds died in 1881 of injuries received during a hunting trip. He suffered a severe mauling when he encountered a grizzly bear and her two cubs.) Old maps and mining accounts spell the place: "Cariboo".

Three views of the Caribou land surface in 1989: the barren blasted hillsides and rocky rubble are poignant reminders of the mining past. (Photos by Alice Horton) Aerial photos of the Caribou area pinpoint the bare remains. (In top photo, Caribou is on the right side, mid-picture; photos by Quincy Jensen)







A privy (left) and cabin (above) are solitary markers of Keenan City in 1989. (Photos by Alice Horton) Caribou City's Commissary (below) sold costly food and equipment when Caribou was a boom town. (Photo by Doug Johnson) The Green House, a hotel, (right) at Caribou in 1921: Ivey Skinner Muir and Ida Morgan are standing on the porch. (Photo courtesy O.S. Bybee)





No one claims that caribou, the handsome animal that resembles reindeer, ever roamed the southeastern Idaho mountains.

Word spread fast. Some early historians say Keenan City, a nearby mining settlement, had 500 residents by the early 1870's. An adjoining Chinatown sheltered three to four hundred people.

But it was Caribou City, located a short distance away, that became the thriving town. At one time, it achieved a population of 1500. A commissary, a

three-story hotel painted green and known as the Evergreen and numerous cabins made up the town. In addition, many prospectors lived in tents and dugouts. By 1881, three stamp mills were in operation. By 1888, four stage coaches left Soda Springs three days a week bound for Caribou City.

Placer mining reportedly began in 1870. Lode gold was discovered in 1874. Well known mines included the Northern Light, Virginia, Orphan Boy, Paymaster, Peterson, Nabob, Mountain

Chief, Silver Star and Neelson. The Iowa Bar and Bilk Gulch achieved some fame as placer areas.

There are wide ranging estimates on the wealth carried out from Caribou City and vicinity. Some figures place the amount of fortune at 50-62 million dollars. The Idaho Historical Society placed the figure at about one million dollars. Historian Bancroft, in a report filed in 1890, said the area yielded a 2 1/2 million dollar fortune. A geological report in Bonneville County uses that figure.



The "water cannon" (bottom, left) was used for hydraulic mining in the 1800's at Caribou and surrounding areas. (Photo by Reo Collin) A close-up view of hand-riveted pipe used to carry water for mining (top, right) at Caribou. Hand-riveted pipe remains are strewn in the Caribou area (middle, right): do they wait for gold seeking miners or for camera shots on summer days? A "trommel" mounted on a revolving shaft was used to screen, separate or size rock (bottom, right). (Photos by Quincy Jensen)





In the period from 1915-1959, \$58,000 in gold was taken from the Caribou mines according to the *U.S. Bureau of Mines Mineral Resources Yearbooks*.

Ironically, the value of nonmetallic minerals mined from the area has exceeded many times over the worth of the gold. Stone, sand and gravel, pumice, clay, shale, basalt, sandstone and limestone have come closer to producing wealth for those who mined those resources.

But rumors persist that Caribou holds a hidden treasure that may yet make someone rich. In summer, visitors with gold pans wade the cold waters of Barnes, Iowa and McCoy Creeks. Some solitary prospectors spend the entire summer in Caribou and some claim some genuine nuggets have found their way into their sluice boxes.

In 1944, Charles H. Wetzel, an eminent mining engineer visited the Mount Pisgah area of Caribou and declared that if "anyone will drive a tunnel through Pisgah at the lowest possible level, say around 6,000 feet, it will develop into the greatest copper deposit in the United States, far superior to Butte."

Legends abound about the mistreatment of Chinese laborers who came to the boom town. One story says mine operators would lay in ambush at the bottom of the mountain on payday. When the Chinese came past, miners gunned them down and recovered their gold dust. Another particularly grisly story has it that Chinese were loaded into mining cars and toppled over the mountains or sent plunging to their deaths in the bottom of mines. Whether such grim tales are true or not, it is certain Chinese were present and working at Caribou. Captain John Codman visited Caribou in August, 1873 and reported the Chinese as "the soberest and best behaved of the population."

In 1896, a teamster described Caribou as "nearly deserted". For practical Eagle Rock farmers and livestockmen, the town had provided an outlet for produce and meat. For dreamers, the town had provided an outlet for fantasies of great wealth. Historians have not, however, uncovered the name of one man who made (or at least was able to hang onto) a fortune from Bonneville County's gold strike town.



Above, left: This ditch at Caribou is quite possibly the “China Ditch” built by Chinese miners with picks and shovels. It was over seven miles long and flowed over a very rough hillside, through down timber and over canyons and steep cliffs. (Photo by Quincy Jensen)

Middle, left: In the winter of 1986-1987 a huge snowslide leveled part of the east-side of Caribou Mountain. (Photo by Bob Collins)

Bottom, left: This log sentinel keeps watch at Caribou. (Photo by Alice Horton)

Above, right: Ranger Bob Tonioli, Doug Johnson, Elaine Johnson and Bob Collins stand at a cabin site at Monte Cristo on Caribou Mountain. (Photo by Quincy Jensen)

Bottom, right: A distant Caribou Mountain in late autumn rests and waits for winter sleep. (Photo by Bob Schweiger)





Barbara Jean Van Eps became the bride of Charlie Collins on October 3, 1948 atop Caribou Mountain. Charlie and Van in 1989 with their altar in the background (above, left); Charlie and Van in 1948 when they first arrived at the altar (far left); the wedding party gathered as Charlie promised “with this ring I thee wed” (immediate left) and Van received the ring of promise on her finger. Bishop Sperry of Shelton officiated. (Photos courtesy Charlie and Van Collins)

Pictured above right is old Caribou City. On the left, mid-picture, is the pinnacle—the only surviving remnant of a hill after hydraulic mining washed its sides away. (Photo courtesy O.S. Bybee)

Bottom, right view is of Caribou Mountain in the summer of 1989. (Photo by Quincy Jensen)



Odds and Ends

Edith Stanger, when telling about the Double Arrow ranch, states that it is one of the oldest ranches actively breeding Appaloosa horses in the world. Stangers' band grew to number about 200 head of colorful horses. Eleven private ranch production sales have been held, some at the Bone ranch where the After-the-Sale-Suppers would see at least one hundred and fifty people standing in line for the famous food and hospitality (along with the blue-grass music of the Stanger boys and their friends).

Stanger horses can be located in almost every state and have also been exported to Japan, Australia, South and Central America and Europe.

The ranch has been written about in numerous national magazines and has been featured in movies such as Disney's *Run Appaloosa, Run* and documentary films about Idaho. They were also seen in Bill Burrud's *Animal World* and represented the United States in a French documentary TV series on *Horsemen Around the World*.

Appaloosa horses can still be seen from the Blackfoot Dam Road that passes by the Stanger Ranch above Bone, Idaho.

Movin' the herd down from Bone in late fall are Dick Stanger, Hugh McPeck, Bruce Boyle and Ron Larson.

It was so dry in 1924, the year Reed Elkington's parents, William and Elsie, moved to the Bone area that the seed they planted in the spring didn't receive one bit of rain. Months later, however, it finally rained. The spring grain sprouted then and came up as a fall crop.

Don Brockman, a black trapper plied his trade on the stream that bears his name. He lived in a cabin and when spring arrived, he would strap his furs onto a toboggan, hitch up his five-dog team and come to town. A wolf or part-wolf he had raised from a pup was his lead dog.

Gray's Lake was known at one time as John Day Lake. It was named for a veteran of the American Revolution. Day, a Virginian and woodsman who explored the region, died in 1828. The lake name was later changed when it was established that John Gray, a trapper, had an earlier claim to the area.

Edith Stanger astride Freels' Chico, the first registered Appaloosa stallion owned by the Stangers and probably the best known Appaloosa horse in the Intermountain area, 1954. (Photos courtesy Edith Stanger)





A team pulled binder and shocks of grain stand captured in this photograph of the Bone area. (Photo Courtesy Edna Empey) D. Elliott, L. Wolfgang, R. Wolfgang and C. Wolfgang at the Henry Wolfgang Ranch in Tex Creek area. (Photo courtesy Bob Collins)

"Hot Rod" Model "T" Ford: transmission consisted of the regular Model "T", a 4 speed "Warford" and a 2 speed "Ruxel" axel; battery ignition replaced a magnet ignition (Information and photo from Bob Collins)





The small settlement of Herman probably was named for Herman Wakeman, a first settler. But it was John Heath who built up the community. He built a grocery store, saloon, blacksmith shop and boarding house at Herman. The business depended on traffic bound for the Caribou Mines.

Major Moore's house; store and saloon; infamous Herman road (Photos by Bob Collins)





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- The three Tetons were an early reference point for Captain Bonneville's maps. Table Mountain is in foreground. (Photo by Jensen)



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